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Couple's decayed bodies found in back of car

RAINE MARCUS
 POLICE were still trying last night to determine the identity of a man and a woman whose decayed bodies were found in the back of a car yesterday afternoon at the entrance to Morasha Cemetery, between Ramat Hasharon and Ra'anana.

The car, whose engine had been left running, was discovered by Ramat Hasharon police yesterday afternoon.

The vehicle was not reported stolen. By last night, police had still not managed to contact the owner, a Lod resident.

Massive forces of police, GSS investigators and snipers who were alerted secured the area for clues. At first police feared the car was booby-trapped and officers examined it for explosives, fire traps and other evidence.

A pathologist determined that the two had been stabbed to death some time before they were found in the car. Whoever brought the bodies may have gotten scared and fled, leaving the engine running, according to police sources.

The two victims had probably been murdered several days ago, according to the pathologist, and their bodies were in an advanced state of decay. Both of them were fully dressed and had been stabbed several times in the upper parts of their bodies.

The man, said police sources, had also been strangled and a nylon rope was left around his neck. Both bodies had been covered with plastic sheeting.

Some detectives said the woman, in her early twenties, looked like a native of the Far East.

Several small empty jewelry boxes were found in the car, but no cash or identification papers were found.

Initially police thought the two were from Lod, but Lod police could not identify the couple.

Although police are still examining all motives, criminal motives seem more likely at this stage. There were no indications that it was a terrorist murder.



Palestinians plant olive trees in the village of Deir Kaddis yesterday, in a symbolic claim to land near the neighboring Moshav Matityahu. In another protest against land expropriation, some 50 Beduin and Palestinian activists demonstrated near Ma'aleh Adumim on Friday.

Jews, Palestinians clash in Hebron

IDF soldiers fired in the air and used tear gas to disperse Palestinian rock-throwers in Hebron after a clash between Jews and Palestinians in the city yesterday afternoon.

An army spokesman said one Palestinian rock-thrower was arrested.

According to the spokesman, Rabbi Moshe Levinger and his family were stoned while walking through the city's casbah on the way to Beit Hadassah. One of Levinger's bodyguards fired into the air.

After this incident, about 20 Kach activists went on a rampage in the casbah, overturned vendors' stands, broke windows and

hit Arabs, according to Jewish sources in the city. They said rocks and concrete blocks were hurled at Levinger and his entourage from three directions, including from rooftops.

The Kach activists then went to Police Square in the center of the city and threw stones at passing cars.

IDF troops who went to the site of the melee were stoned by Palestinians. The IDF Spokesman's office said that one of the Jews fired shots into the air.

Israel Radio quoted Palestinian sources as saying the incident

began when Jews entered the casbah, told store owners to close, and began overturning stands and hitting passersby.

The IDF Spokesman's office said the IDF and the Hebron police are investigating the incident.

Last week Hebron Jewish leaders met with Alec Ron, the commander of the new Judea and Samaria police district, to discuss what they said was a drastic increase in the number of Palestinian rock-throwing incidents.

Itm adds: On Friday, three Palestinians and one policeman were injured

during rioting in Nablus, army sources reported.

The incident began when a group of youths began pelting soldiers and border policemen with stones in the town's main square.

The troops responded by shooting rounds of tear gas and live fire to disperse the rioters.

Haiman Lidawi, 18, from Nablus, was badly wounded in his leg by gunfire, and two other Palestinians were also moderately wounded.

One Israeli border policeman was also lightly injured in the head by a stone and was treated at a nearby army clinic, the sources said.

Hussein, Mubarak discuss Jerusalem

Islamic conference on future of holy sites begins tomorrow

KING Hussein conferred by telephone yesterday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ahead of next week's Islamic conference in Jerusalem.

They also discussed Mubarak's plans to visit Jordan on February 1, his first trip since relations soured in 1990 over the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, state-run Jordan Radio said.

"King Hussein and Mubarak reviewed ... the necessity of overcoming differences and unifying views on various fateful Arab issues," it said.

A Jordan government spokesman said yesterday that Jordan would continue to administer Jerusalem's holy sites until a final settlement was worked out between Israel and the Palestinians.

However, Jordanian officials said yesterday that the PLO was seeking to end the kingdom's role in Jerusalem.

They said the PLO will ask the Jerusalem Committee to administer the holy sites.

It was not clear if Hussein got any reassurance from Mubarak during the telephone contact.

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

In Gaza, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said: "All of us are willing to be martyrs on our way to Jerusalem - the capital of Palestine. ... In the end, we will fly the Palestinian flag over the walls of Jerusalem."

Arafat was speaking Friday at a memorial ceremony for three Fatah leaders who were killed over the years.

The 16-member Jerusalem Committee meets in Morocco tomorrow. It was formed in 1975 by the 52-member Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The committee, chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco, convenes periodically on the level of foreign ministers to discuss political and financial problems related to the holy city.

A dispute between Jordan and the Palestinians over the administration of Jerusalem's holy sites is expected to overshadow the forthcoming session.

The problem first surfaced in October, when Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty that included Israeli recognition of Jordan's

"special role" in administering Islamic shrines in Jerusalem.

The rift widened last month when Jordan sought recognition of its role from an OIC summit meeting in Casablanca, Morocco.

The Palestinians argued that such backing would undercut their claim to eastern Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

King Hussein walked out on the summit after Arab countries, including Egypt, rallied behind the Palestinians, denying Jordan a word of thanks in the final communique for the \$9 million it spends annually to maintain the sites.

King Hussein has said that Jordan will hand over the holy sites to the Palestinians if and when they gain sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem.

Under the 1993 PLO-Israeli self-rule accord, negotiations on the final status of the city will begin by 1996.

Mubarak is leading an effort for Arab reconciliation to be followed by a summit meeting. His trip to Jordan next month is part of the campaign.

Police to play bigger role in probing complaints against settlers

EVELYN GORDON
 THE police will have much greater responsibility for investigating complaints against settlers in Judea and Samaria, according to a rough draft of new guidelines on cooperation between the police, the army and the General Security Service.

The Justice Ministry began work on the guidelines following the Shamgar Commission's report on the Hebron massacre, and the rough draft was only recently completed, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said at a meeting with journalists in Jerusalem last week. The parties involved are to meet to discuss the draft this week.

Under the new guidelines, Ben-Yair said, the preliminary investigation of disturbances by settlers will, whenever possible, be done by the police, who have more experience in the proper

gathering of evidence. If soldiers must be involved because the police are unavailable, they will be given detailed instructions on what information to get, and will confine themselves to gathering and verifying - via photographs, for instance - the necessary data.

"If the evidence isn't properly collected, it's impossible to handle a case," he said, noting that soldiers often fail to get even the minimal necessary information. For instance, he said, a soldier sometimes takes down someone's name without their identity card number, and it later turns out that there are dozens of people with that name. "I'm very pleased that a new police division... [with] an independent investigations unit and an independent unit for taking down complaints, has been set up," he said.

Even with proper evidence, however, there are many difficulties affecting law enforcement in the territories, Ben-Yair said. For instance, Arab residents of the territories often do not want

to file complaints, and while soldiers can do so, many are reservists who are hard to track down later and do not want to be bothered with testifying.

Communications foul-ups between the different bodies involved are also a serious problem, and one the ministry is trying hard to correct, Ben-Yair said. He gave the example of former Kach activist Baruch Marzel - now standing trial in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court - who has been prevented by the army from coming into Jerusalem for his trial three times in the past three months.

Because of the magistrate's court's schedule, it can be months before the last day of hearings is rescheduled, he said, and even then, it is very difficult to persuade the Arab witnesses, many of whom did not want to come in the first place, to give up another day. Despite these difficulties, he said, there are currently up to 80 cases in the courts against settlers charged with disturbing the peace.

"The situation today is certainly better than it was in the past," he said. "It's never good enough, but it is improving."

Chechen Presidential Palace in flames, battles rage

GROZNY, Russia (Reuter) - Hundreds of Russian shells rained down on the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday in the most intensive artillery bombardment in the two-week assault on the devastated city.

The presidential palace, symbol of Chechen resistance, was in flames after a Russian artillery assault and ferocious street battles raged for control of Grozny.

Moscow reported military gains, using its massive artillery

strength, and the rebels admitted that they had lost ground.

It was unclear whether the Chechen rebels still held the presidential palace and the whereabouts of Chechnya's separatist president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, was unknown.

The German newspaper Welt am Sonntag said it had spoken to Dudayev by satellite telephone early yesterday and that he was holed up in the palace.

Full story, Page 3

Mickey Berkowitz stops playing for Hapoel Tel Aviv

JOEL GORDIN

ISRAEL'S greatest home-grown basketball player, Mickey Berkowitz, dropped a bombshell over the weekend by announcing he will no longer continue playing for Hapoel Tel Aviv this season.

At a specially-called press conference on Friday, the 40-year-old Berkowitz did not, however, say he was ready to call it quits. He stated he was "considering offers from other clubs" for next season.

He also was careful to deny rumors of a quarrel with Hapoel Tel Aviv, adding the Ussishkin club had offered him a senior management position.

Full story, Page 9

Shahal report causes uproar in Labor

'Government hurtling towards economic disaster'

SARAH HONIG and JOSE ROSENFELD

THE government is "hurtling full-speed towards an economic disaster, while the economic leadership seems unaware of where it is heading," says a damning report on the government's performance in the socioeconomic sphere, written by Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

The report, which was submitted to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday and intended for Rabin's eyes only, is sending shock waves through the already beleaguered Labor Party.

The cabinet today will debate the Treasury's proposal to cut NIS 720 million from the budget to pay for the 1.9 percent reduction in the employers' health tax, and to grant working women an additional tax credit point.

The plan is expected to be approved, although some ministers have objected to cuts in their ministries' budgets.

It was uncertain last night how Shahal would vote on the proposed budget cuts.

Shahal speaks of "a confused government," of policies being "shot from the hip," then "hurriedly amended after the fact." He warns that the "a majority of the public is dissatisfied with the government's performance in the socioeconomic sphere" and that if things are allowed to continue, a "recession is in the offing."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office as well as Shahal and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat all refused to comment last night.

That the paper was leaked, however, is a source of acute embarrassment for Labor, and the contents of the report are seen as yet another severe blow to the besieged government.

Following his analysis of the government's policy, Shahal concludes bluntly that those responsible for the government's policies have failed. "In all, the impression is of a confused government, whose moves are often decided upon after the fact, too late, with great haste and without overall planning."

The Treasury, according to Shahal, "appears unable to put together a long-term economic policy." He says there is "no point in even repeating the long list of economic failures, the greatest of which is the government's inability, since it was established, to at all reassess the national list of priorities. Budgets are simply approved without renewed examination."

"The hasty economic moves by the Treasury are generally fired from the hip and are yet another aspect of the administrative failure of the ministers in charge of the macro-economic sphere," Shahal writes.

Israel's tax load, he notes, "is one of the heaviest in the world and the new health tax threatens to bring the disaffection of the middle class to a boil. The burden placed on middle-income earners is insufferable."

He adds that "the gaps between the middle and high income groups are widening, while the government's dependence on the rich increases to a point where the situation is becoming dangerous to democracy."

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri rejected Shahal's comments, saying only a politician appealing to populist sentiments could suggest both cutting taxes and reducing the gaps between different social classes.

According to Itim, Tsuri said that cutting taxes would make it impossible for the government to help the poorer classes and increase equality, one of the basic principles of the Labor Party.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetret, however, also criticized the Treasury's policies over the weekend, attacking the proposed budget cuts, making it unclear how he too would vote in the cabinet today. The four Meretz ministers have declared opposition to the cuts as well.

Shetret accused the Treasury of "using brute force and dictatorial conceptions to ram through its policies."

He met over the weekend with Rabin and presented him with his own proposal to amend the report.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Hamas seeks PA cooperation for escalation of attacks

HAMAS called yesterday for an escalation of attacks and sabotage against Jewish settlements to force the settlers out of the territories.

Palestinian Authority ministers, meanwhile, complained that Israel's continued settlement construction in the territories violated the Oslo accords.

Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader, said the organization had put together a "confrontational plan" to force the settlers out.

"We should implement all measures, including armed meth-

ods, in order to defend ourselves against settlers," Zahar said. "By these methods we can achieve a lot of success."

The plan also included acts of sabotage such as the destruction of water pipes, slashing electric fences around settlements and erecting concrete barriers on roads, he said.

Zahar spoke at a seminar on settlements held yesterday at Islamic University in Gaza, and later at a press conference.

News agencies

Zahar said he would present the Hamas plan to Arafat's government and other Palestinian factions so a joint anti-settlement initiative could be developed.

But the PA ministers were divided in their reaction over Zahar's remarks.

PA Labor Minister Samir Ghosheh praised Zahar's stand.

"The confrontation over settlements is the responsibility of every citizen and every activist," Ghosheh told reporters. "[It] should be done with a broad-based popular actions."

But Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said the Palestinians were committed to peaceful resistance.

"We have committed ourselves to a peaceful method of facing all our problems," Shaath told reporters. "We support all peaceful efforts by people to resist and to protect their land. But besides that we're also doing our best in

all other areas of negotiations."

He added, however, that at the final stage of the peace agreement, all settlements should be removed from the Gaza Strip.

Economics Minister Ahmed Oreia said settlements were the top priority at the weekly cabinet meeting.

"This activity was at the top of our agenda today. It is illegal, it is an obstacle, it should be frozen completely. There should be no settlement activities until we reach the final status," Oreia said.

Meanwhile President Bill Clinton assured PLO chief Yasser Arafat Friday that the United States is committed to full implementation of the second stage of the autonomy accord.

In a message delivered by US Consul General Ed Abington, Clinton promised to work with the PA toward that goal, said Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Irjeineh.

Jordanians nab infiltrators

DAVID RUDGE

A FULL-SCALE security alert was mounted in the Jordan Valley region on Friday following an infiltration attempt in the area south of Lake Kinneret.

The alarm was sounded after IDF troops discovered signs that someone had crossed the border from Jordan.

The tracks of two suspected infiltrators were seen leading towards Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov (Hud). Large forces of police and IDF troops raced to the scene and the area, including the main road

leading from the Tzema Junction to Beit She'an, was closed while searches were mounted.

Communities in the area went on emergency alert and armed guards were stationed at strategic points at kibbutzim and moshavim in the region.

Around two hours later, however, the IDF was informed that Jordanian security forces had

caught the suspected infiltrators who had apparently recrossed the border back into Jordanian territory.

Jordan Valley regional council chairman Ze'ev Shore, praised the IDF, saying the peace agreement had not blunted alertness.

"Within minutes of the alarm being sounded everything was in hand, with roads closed, communities on alert and troops searching the area. It just proved once again that we can trust the army," said Shore.

Former GSS man Ya'acov Sela drowns

YA'ACOV Sela, a former senior General Security Services official, drowned off the Herzliya coast yesterday.

Sela and the head of the IDF's Manpower Branch, Maj. Gen. Yoram Yair, had gone swimming together when high waves began pulling them further away from the shore.

Yair tried to save Sela, but he was already dead when he was pulled from the water.

Sela, 50, of Ra'anana, is survived by his wife and three children.

SHAHAL

(Continued from Page One) the recently approved stock market tax.

According to Shetreet's spokesman, the cabinet will today consider the Economics Ministry's proposal, which will only impose the tax on stocks purchased from January 1, 1995, onward to avoid paying the tax on prior-year losses.

In addition, the plan calls for banks to combine each investor's stocks in one portfolio to facilitate offsetting losses.

Shetreet also wants to exempt foreign investors and those who keep up to NIS 500,000 in stocks for more than two years.

He will also propose that the government issue a new bond with the option of being linked either to the housing or the consumer price indexes, whichever is higher. He will recommend an issue of NIS 1 billion of such bonds, which he said would be equivalent to 3,000 housing units, and would reduce speculative housing purchases to help bring down housing prices.

Opposition whip David Meizel said the Knesset social caucus will oppose welfare cuts and warned the cabinet that it will not have a majority for the Treasury's package.

MAX ZINMAN

passed away on January 12, 1995.

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In deep sorrow and grief we announce the passing of

BESSIE WIDE

of Nofel Yerushalayim,
formerly of Glasgow and Manchester.

On Thursday, January 12, 11th of Shvat.

Her husband, Maurice Wide, and sons Ronald and Michael Sher are sitting shiva at Rehov Hapigah 47, Bayit Vagan.

The Management and Staff
of The Jerusalem Post
extend condolences to their colleague
Heather Chait
on the passing of her

MOTHER

Our sincere sympathy to the family of

MOSHE NEUDORFER

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With great sorrow we announce the death of our beloved

Dr. NAF HERZ

The funeral will take place today,
Sunday, 15 January, 1995, 12:00 p.m.,
in Haifa, Kfar Joshua (Kfar Samir), gate 1.

The Family

PA forms committee to watch expenditures

THE Palestinian Authority formed a ministerial committee yesterday to set economic priorities and supervise the expenditure of millions of dollars in foreign aid to the financially strapped self-rule areas.

Some aid money has trickled in since self-rule began in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, but foreign governments have been reluctant to send large sums until Arafat establishes proper accounting procedures.

Even Arafat's economics minister, Ahmed Oreia, complained in the past that the PLO chief made a muddle of economic mat-

ters by creating rival agencies and then demanding final say even on minor issues.

The formation of the ministerial committee apparently was an attempt to bring greater transparency to government spending.

The committee will be headed by Arafat. Members include Oreia, Planning Minister Nabil Shaath, Finance Minister Mohammed Zuhdi Nashashibi and Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department.

Governments around the world have pledged more than \$2.4 billion to the Palestinians over five years. (AP)

Settler officials say their population grew 5% in '94

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE number of Jewish residents in Judea, Samaria and Gaza has reached 141,000, an increase of nearly 5 percent in 1994, according to figures released yesterday by settlement officials.

The new settlement population figures are based on municipal tax records and were gathered two months ago, settler leaders told Israel Radio yesterday.

According to the survey, over 134,000 settlers live in Judea and Samaria and over 7,000 in the Gaza Strip. The radio report did

not say how much of the increase was due to natural growth.

Pinhas Wallerstein, a settlement leader, said most Israelis who moved into settlements in 1994 bought their homes before the signing of the Oslo Accords in September 1993.

The settler survey said the largest population growth took place in the settlements around Jerusalem and in Gaza.

According to the survey, some 35,000 settlers live in the satellite towns of Jerusalem, about 7,000 in the Jordan Valley, and 92,000 in the remainder of Judea and Samaria.

ARRIVALS

WIZO leaders, to attend the plenary session of the World WIZO Executive: Zosia Mezer - Australia; Edith Landerman, Edith Katz - Austria; Denise Feilbusch, Fanny Hollander - Belgium, Luxembourg; Ruth Cohen - Brazil; Judy Mandelmann - Canada; Kij Sade - Denmark; Leona Ostbaum - Finland; Nora Galland, Sabrina ben Amos - France; Lela Susskind, Helga Israel - Germany; Lea Nahmias - Greece; Roth Sonick, Oim Mony, Barbara Harding, Shoshana Schreiber - Gt. Britain; Betty Heerje - Halberstadt - Holland; Ziva Modiano Fischer, Bianca Fink-Colbi - Italy; Sima Kipulis - Mexico; Marianne Kohn - Norway; Annette Price, Marcia Farness, Rachel Rappaport - South Africa; Gila Bornstein, Charlotte Endinger - Sweden; Lucy Gideon, Ruth Dreyfuss, Ruth Rappaport, Alena Lorie - Switzerland; Evelyn Sommer, Jane Falk - USA.

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Nazareth protest against informers

HUNDREDS of people took part in a parade and rally in Nazareth yesterday afternoon protesting the settlement of collaborators and their families in Israeli Arab towns and villages.

Among the speakers at the rally were Haddash MK Hashem Mahameed, Democratic Arab Party leader MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe and Nazareth Mayor, Ramzes Jeneizeh.

Jeneizeh complained that since the arrival of the informers, there has been an increase in drug dealing, prostitution and other crimes. Jeneizeh said Israeli Arabs also objected to the presence of the collaborators on political grounds.

David Rudge and news agencies

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my husband, our father and our dear grandfather

Reb SHMUEL-ABA KLURMAN

son of David Hachohen ז"ה
of Kamin-Koshirski (Vohlin)

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Monday, January 16, 1995, (15 Shvat, 5755)
at 2:30 p.m. at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery, meeting next to the gate, at 2:15 p.m.
A bus will leave at 1:30 p.m. from Huberman St. (opposite the box office of Hechal Hatarbut), Tel Aviv.
Shiva will be held at the family home: 80/45 Rehov Krinitzi, Ramat Gan.

The mourners:

Wife: Zissel Klurman

Daughters and Sons-in-law: Tzipora and Amitai Ben-Aviv

Menucha Mizrahi

Dvora Klurman

Dina and Alan Krantz

Grandchildren: Ora, Michal, and Matan Ben-Aviv

David Mizrahi

Keren and Lior Argie

Keile-Masha Krantz

Great-grandchildren: Sheli and David Argie

1504-01-15

Lamberto Dini asked to form Italy's 54th post-war cabinet

ROME (Reuters) - Lamberto Dini yesterday began the task of forming Italy's 54th government since World War II, but newspapers, while applauding his appointment to the premiership, wondered how far off an early general election might be.

The influential *Corriere della Sera* said the choice of Dini, the outgoing treasury minister and a former central bank governor, as prime minister-designate marked "an honorable truce" following the bitter political row over the successor to Silvio Berlusconi, who resigned on December 22.

"Dini, a new chapter opens," read the banner headline on the front page of *La Repubblica*, a daily and one of the strongest opponents of media magnate turned politician Berlusconi.

The new prime minister summoned his closest aides at the treasury ministry as he set to work piecing together a cabinet which he said would consist of technocrats drawn from outside the world of party politics.

Dini has ruled out the formal consultations with party leaders which usually form part of the ritual of assembling a government but yesterday afternoon he held separate talks with Gianni Letta and Giuliano Ferrara, two men close to Berlusconi.



Italian premier designate Lamberto Dini. (AP)

Letta was cabinet secretary in the outgoing government while Ferrara was Berlusconi's minister for relations with parliament.

Political analysts said he could have his list of ministers ready by the middle of next week amid signs his government would secure broad support in parliament, at least initially.

Newspapers were generally agreed that Antonio Di Pietro, the former Milan magistrate who became a folk hero for his work in fighting corruption, was a leading candidate either for the post of justice or of interior minister. But Di Pietro reiterated yesterday that he had no plans to enter politics.

"I'm honored by suggestions that I may be offered a job in government but I repeat that it is not my intention to play any role in politics," he told reporters in Milan.

The constitution does not allow either Dini or President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, the man who appointed him, to set a time limit on his premiership and political parties are already bickering over how long Dini should govern.

Dini, who is not a member of any party and only entered politics when Berlusconi made him treasury minister last May, said his government had a clear four-point program.

He said the government must pass a mini-budget to rein in Italy's runaway deficit, overhaul the pension system, ensure fair representation in the media for all political parties and reform the electoral system ahead of regional polls this spring.

Serbs fail to lift roadblock on Sarajevo despite promise

SARAJEVO (AP) - Bosnian Serbs reneged yesterday on a promise to open a route linking Sarajevo to the outside world and killed four civilians while shelling the northwest of the republic.

UN spokesman Paul Risley called the shelling in downtown Bihac the worst breach of a December 24 Bosnian cease-fire. An artillery or mortar shell fired by Bosnian Serbs or allied Serbs in neighboring Croatia hit a bridge, he said.

Fighting also flared near three other towns in the Bihac enclave, mocking both the original cease-fire and a more comprehensive four-month January 1 truce.

Croatian Serbs and allied rebel Muslims did not sign the truce between the Moslem-led Sarajevo government and Bosnian Serbs.

Sarajevo residents had been promised free movement for the first time in five months yesterday. But Serbs were aiming guns at the

route despite their agreement to allow safe passage as part of the truce pact, UN officials said.

Closure of the route, which connects government-held areas in Sarajevo with central Bosnia, has left the city's 280,000 residents dependent on UN airlifts and aid convoys using another route.

In contrast, a route linking two Serb-controlled Sarajevo suburbs opened smoothly yesterday morning for the scheduled two hours. Cars blew their horns as they passed each other along the airport runway between the Serb-held suburbs of Ilidza to Lukavica. A French UN officer shook the hand of the first motorist and wished him a happy Serbian Orthodox new year.

Reopening the routes was part of an agreement reached Wednesday on implementing Bosnia's tenuous four-month cease-fire.

But the Serb-controlled route, which also passes over the airport

runway, remained closed. By noon, 18 trucks were lined up waiting to cross and 75 people in cars had given up and turned back.

Truck driver Sada Katlovac said he was waiting to pick up flour on the other side of the airport and drive it back to Sarajevo.

"I have no feelings," he said when asked about the agreement's apparent breakdown. "There's no point in being angry anymore."

UN officers can only keep one of the routes open at a time. By agreement with the Moslem-led government, the Serb route opened first.

Serbs have only agreed to allow aid transports and private traffic on the airport route they control - not commercial traffic, as the government requested.

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, suggested the delay was caused by the dispute over who could use the road.

Tireless pope makes security men nervous

MANILA (Reuters) - Pope John Paul yesterday threw himself into the busiest day so far of his visit to the Philippines which climaxed with an ecstatic reception from hundreds of thousands of people at a youth rally.

With events lasting from early morning until late evening, the 74-year-old Pontiff showed no signs of flagging on the third day of an 11-day tour that will take him from the Philippines on to Papua New Guinea, Australia and Sri Lanka.

He was clearly delighted with the response he has received in Asia's only mainly Roman Catholic country, although it has given his security men some nervous moments.

Exuberant crowds threatened at one point to overwhelm his guards at a Catholic media awards ceremony in the afternoon.

The smiling pope appeared unconcerned by the pushing and shoving around him. He responded by waving the silver-topped walking stick he has used since a leg operation last year.

The pope himself had earlier veered away from his bodyguards to get nearer to the people on his way into the ceremony.

"We get nervous every time the pope tries to get closer to the people," police Major Edmund Cacanjan told Reuters.

Egyptian police kill four suspected militants in south

CAIRO (AP) - Police killed four suspected Moslem militants in a shootout yesterday in southern Egypt, the Interior Ministry said.

The battle erupted as police raided the radicals' hideout in a Christian cemetery at Bani Mazar in el-Minya province, 220 kilometers south of Cairo, a ministry statement said. No police were hurt but a passerby was wounded, it said.

Police often report suspects killed in exchanges of fire in isolated areas like fields or cemeteries, while human rights groups and opposition newspapers claim some such killings occur when suspects are in police custody. There usually is no way to verify either the police or opposition accounts.

Yemen fears Saudi plan for military action on border

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) - Saudi Arabia has amassed troops at two major border points raising fears it is contemplating a military response to recent tensions in disputed territory, Yemeni security sources said yesterday.

The sources, who would not be further identified, said the troop buildup was detected over the weekend in the regions of Bok'e, 230 kilometers northwest of San'a, in the province of Sa'dah and Harad, 260 kilometers north of the capital.

The sources did not provide further details on the alleged Saudi deployments. Arab diplomats in San'a said they had heard the reports but had no details.

Diplomats in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, however could not confirm these reports. There was no official word from the Saudi government on the situation.

Yemen's parliament speaker, Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, was due to travel to Riyadh on Sunday for talks about the simmering border dispute, which has triggered armed clashes in recent weeks.

The ministry statement also said a police guard was shot and killed yesterday by unidentified gunmen in Mallawi in el-Minya province.

Mallawi, 260 kilometers south of Cairo, has been under a nightly curfew for the past three months, requiring residents to remain at home. Clashes between police and extremists shifted to el-Minya about four months ago after police tightened their grip on the radical stronghold of Assiut to the south.

Extremists have waged a campaign of violence since the spring of 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. More than 540 people have died in violence, most of them police and extremists.



A group of civilians find shelter in the basement of an apartment building in the center of Grozny, as Russian forces pounded the city with rocket and artillery fire in an attempt to grind down Chechen rebels holding key positions. (AP)

Russians launch new attack, take key buildings in Grozny

BARRY RENFREW
GROZNY

A KEY Chechen rebel position in Grozny fell to the Russians in hand-to-hand fighting as Russian troops continued to relentlessly pound the heart of the city yesterday with artillery and rocket fire.

The Russian army said troops captured the Council of Ministers building, its deepest advance yet into the city center. The building is several hundred meters from the Presidential Palace, symbolic stronghold of the Chechen battle for independence from Russia.

Chechen fighters confirmed that the building had been taken after heavy fighting in which rebels destroyed eight attacking Russian tanks. The rebels staged several counterattacks on the building yesterday, but were repelled by the Russians, the Russian military command said.

It said the Chechens mounted "steadfast resistance" despite the loss of some key positions in Grozny and heavy casualties, and brought reinforcements to the southeastern part of the city and its outskirts.

Russia's Independent Television reported a firefight in the Presidential Palace yesterday after some Russian troops managed to get into the devastated building. But it apparently remained under Chechen control.

Russian artillery fire was concentrated on the center of the city, the deep rumble of exploding artillery shells alternating with the pitched whine of Grad rockets.

"They're hitting every inch of the city center," said Shamil Basaev, a rebel commander, who was injured in the fighting.

Russian commanders appeared to be using their massive artillery strength to try to break the Chechen resistance and clear the way for further ground attacks while minimizing their own losses.

Russian jets roared over the city, firing rockets into buildings as plumes of black smoke towered hundreds of meters into the sky. Russian helicopters were heard, also apparently attacking targets.

Several extremely large explosions indicated the Russians were using large ground-to-ground rockets. Some people claimed the Russians were using rockets with multiple warheads.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev appeared on Chechen television Friday night with an urgent appeal for more infantry to "clear out the city" of Russian troops, a rebel officer said.

The officer, who did not give his name, was leading a group of about 25 fighters toward the city center, but only five or six of them had guns.

"Freedom or death," one young rebel said. Although the rebel forces appeared to be

holding the Presidential Palace, Chechen fighters said it was increasingly difficult to bring supplies and reinforcements to the building.

Russia's Defense Ministry said there were pockets of resistance at the Interior Ministry and Chechnya's Security Department buildings. Fierce battles raged around the railway station yesterday.

The government press service said mobile groups of 10 to 15 well-trained rebels, armed with grenade launchers, automatic weapons and night-vision instruments, were concentrated in the northwestern, southern and southeastern parts of the city.

It estimated the number of armed rebels in Grozny at 1,500 to 2,000.

Few people ventured onto Grozny's deadly streets except for the fighters and refugees trying to flee the city. A few scared elderly residents went to wells to draw water in buckets.

The fall of Grozny will be an important symbolic victory for Russia, and eventually will enable it to install some provisional government - but would not give it firm control over Chechnya.

The Chechens have vowed to continue the war from the southern mountains, where many guerrillas are now based. Dudayev, who surfaced in Grozny on Wednesday, also has a base in the mountains, according to Russian reports.

Gunmen kill six Algerian opposition party members

TUNIS (Reuters) - Gunmen have shot dead six members of Algeria's legal opposition National Liberation Front party, whose leader is under fire from the government for joining peace talks abroad with outlawed Islamists.

The official Algerian news agency said yesterday that the six men, aged between 43 and 61, were killed on Thursday in the village of Lahlef, Relizane province, some 255 kilometers southwest of Algiers.

APS quoted a security force statement which blamed the killings on "armed terrorists," the official term for Moslem guerrillas.

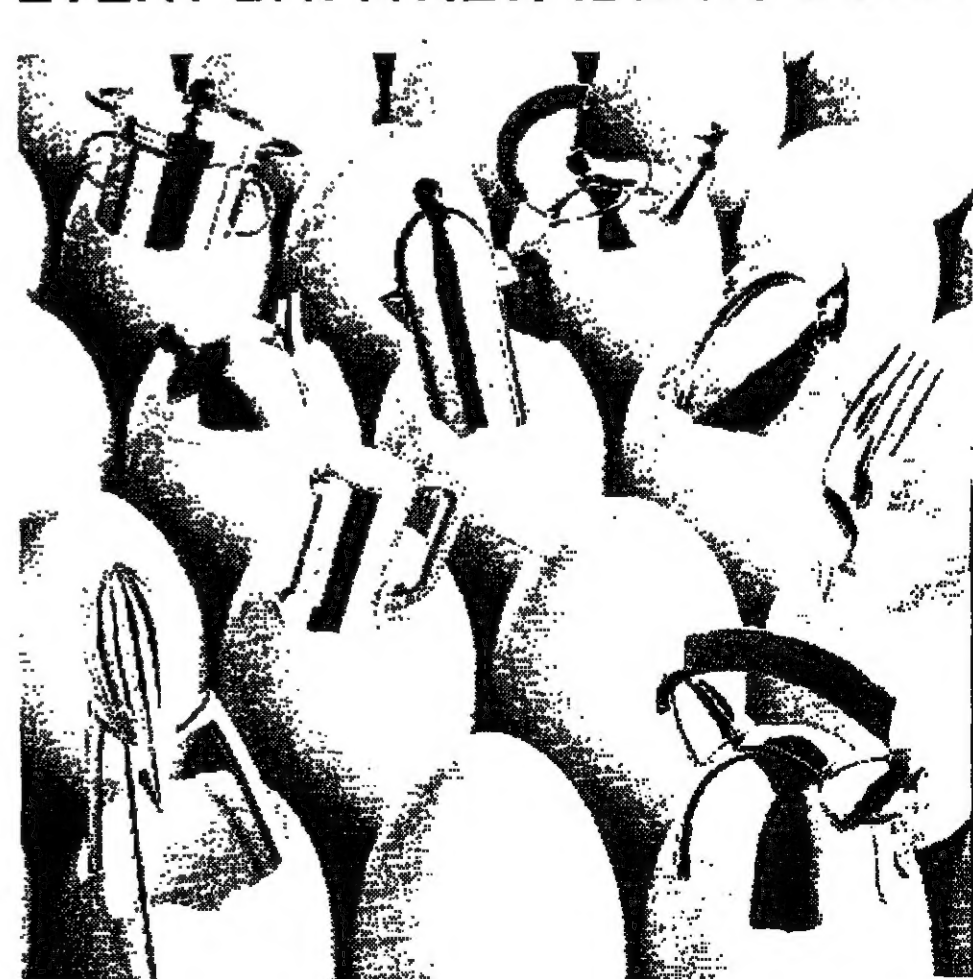
The authorities have reported dozens of other militants of the former sole ruling party being slain by Moslem guerrillas during Algeria's three years of violence. But this was the first time so many had been reported killed in a single day and in such a small community.

The FLN is among eight main opposition groups, including the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, which signed a joint proposal in Rome on Friday aimed at ending their country's civil strife.

The Algerian government criticized the talks abroad and those taking part, saying the meeting was interference in Algeria's internal affairs.

Algeria state run media, mirroring the government stand, said the draft peace plan was a worthless political bid which failed to condemn terrorism.

EVERY DAY A NEW IDEA IS BORN.



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inspiration? or from a synthesis of all.
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function or function follow form?

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Fired House historian apologizes on ITV for Holocaust remark

CHRISTINA Jeffrey apologized yesterday on Israel Television for a controversial remark about the Holocaust that got her fired earlier this week as historian of the US House of Representatives.

"I am so sorry. I am so sorry," Jeffrey said in an interview broadcast during last night's evening news.

"I would never want my friends in the Jewish community, in Israel, to think that there was ever anybody in a responsible position who would entertain such notions," she said.

Jeffrey made the controversial statement when she reviewed a high school course on the Holocaust, not in the sense that you might balance some ordinary policy dispute where people of good will differ," said Jeffrey, an associate professor of political science at Kennesaw State College.

"The Holocaust is not something you can balance because it was an outrage. It was the most outrageous incident of the 20th century," she added.

Jeffrey complained that she was a "victim of character assassination" engineered by Democratic Party leaders.

The historian was appointed and then fired by Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich. (AP)

At the time, Jeffrey criticized the proposed course because it "gives no evidence of balance or objectivity. The Nazi point of view, however unpopular, is still a point of view and is not presented, nor is that of the Ku Klux Klan."

Jeffrey said yesterday that her review of the course "was written hastily and not well."

She explained that since the text was written for colleagues and not for a general audience, she used a professional shorthand that could easily be misunderstood.

"You cannot balance the Holocaust," she said.

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Malcolm X's daughter 'set up' by informant

Charged in plot to kill Farrakhan

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - The daughter of slain black activist Malcolm X was lured into a plot to kill his Black Muslim rival Louis Farrakhan by a childhood friend, her lawyer says, while two former members of the Jewish Defense League said the man is a "violent racist" whom the FBI used to infiltrate peace groups and the JDL.

Others were also quick Friday to denounce the government's case against Qubilah Shabazz as a setup, including a spokeswoman for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Shabazz was charged Thursday with trying to hire a hit man to kill Farrakhan, a rival of her slain father who Malcolm X's family has long believed had a hand in his 1965 murder.

The man who Shabazz allegedly hired to kill Farrakhan was identified in news reports as Michael Fitzpatrick, a white former classmate of the 34-year-old woman.

"He is a set-up artist, who goes from group to group setting people up," said Steve Dannel, a former member of the Jewish Defense League who went to United Nations High School in New York City with Shabazz and Fitzpatrick.

Dannel said in an interview in New York that Fitzpatrick once belonged to the JDL and was used by the FBI to investigate peace groups.

"He was always suggesting ille-



Malcolm X (left) seen at a rally in Harlem, New York, with Louis Farrakhan (far right) in a 1963 file photo. Malcolm X's daughter is charged with plotting to kill Farrakhan, who her family believes was involved in the murder of Malcolm X. (AP)

gal things," Dannel said.

In Chicago, a spokeswoman for Farrakhan suggested the nine-count federal indictment was part of a conspiracy to divide the black community.

"The question that must be raised by the black community today is whether or not in the light of our 440 years of suffering at the hands of our oppressors, we can reasonably believe that the United States Department of Justice desires to protect the life of Minister Louis Farrakhan," said Ava Mohammed, an attorney for the Nation of Islam.

The Nation of Islam preaches a blend of Islam, economic independence and separatism for US blacks.

Malcolm X became the Nation's best known spokesman in the early 1960s and drew criticism for his pointed criticism of white America and advocacy of violent struggle for black rights.

He later broke with the Nation, and was gunned down at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, New York, on March 21, 1965, as he spoke to hundreds of follow-

ers. A year later, three Black Muslims were convicted in the murder.

Malcolm X's widow, Betty Shabazz, said as recently as last year that she believes Farrakhan, then a Nation minister, was involved.

Court documents on file in New York show that Fitzpatrick tipped authorities to a 1978 plot by the JDL to bomb the Egyptian Tourist Office in Manhattan.

The documents show Fitzpatrick agreed to supply the dynamite in the bombing, which

failed, and secretly taped a conversation between two JDL members that eventually led to their arrest.

Chaim Ben Pessach, one of the two men convicted after Fitzpatrick tipped their conversations about the bombing, said Fitzpatrick is a "very violent racist."

"He hated black people," said Ben Pessach, who served 21 months in prison for 11 firebombings.

"That was the one thing he felt very strongly about: black people were very easy to manipulate."

The letter also established a closer link between four men convicted of the February 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000, and those now on trial for seditious conspiracy. They were also indicted for plotting the November 1990 murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The letter said the fingerprints of the man who helped build the bomb and rented the van that carried it into the Trade Center were found on a diagram of a planned armored car robbery found on El-Sayid Nosair in 1990.

Nosair, Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and 10 others are accused of plotting to bomb the

Gorbachev, gay bar said to be targets of Islamic terrorism

NEW YORK (AP) - Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were among the targets of one of the 12 defendants charged with plotting a war of urban terrorism in the United States, prosecutors said.

A letter from prosecutors to the defense, made public Friday, details the government's plan to introduce evidence from many crimes for which the defendants were not charged. Prosecutors sent the letter Tuesday because they are required to notify the defense what evidence they plan to show.

The letter also established a closer link between four men convicted of the February 26, 1993, bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000, and those now on trial for seditious conspiracy. They were also indicted for plotting the November 1990 murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The letter said the fingerprints of the man who helped build the bomb and rented the van that carried it into the Trade Center were found on a diagram of a planned armored car robbery found on El-Sayid Nosair in 1990.

Nosair, Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and 10 others are accused of plotting to bomb the

United Nations, Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters, two tunnels and a bridge. Prosecutors say the terror spree was meant to force the US government to change its Middle East policies.

The first week of jury selection ended Thursday with 24 potential jurors surviving the first round of questioning.

In the letter, prosecutors claim Nosair planned to kill Gorbachev and Mubarak while each were in New York City on separate occasions.

Prosecutors also wrote that they may introduce evidence that Nosair bombed a gay bar in Manhattan in 1990 because "homosexuality is contrary to Islam." Three people were injured in the blast.

Prosecutors also said they would note plots to kill UN Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali, Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York, and Jewish Defense League member Leon Kryzhanovsky, as well as schemes to kidnap former US President Richard Nixon and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

In November 1990, Nosair was charged in the assassination of Kahane. He was acquitted of the murder, but convicted of weapons charges and is serving a 22-year state prison term.

Disappointment in Germany over troubles for Auschwitz ceremonies

BERLIN - The head of Germany's Jewish community criticized Poland's arrangements to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz but said Friday he planned to attend - unless things go further awry.

Some newspapers in Germany gave front-page treatment to public back-and-forth between the Polish government and Jewish organizations that are unhappy at what they see as Warsaw's failure to give a proper focus to Jewish needs at a place where the Nazis killed so many Jews.

Ignatz Bubis, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, told reporters in Leipzig, where he appeared at a conference on

antisemitism, that it was possible that Nobel Peace Prize-winner Elie Wiesel may not attend the ceremonies on January 26-27.

Wiesel, a survivor of Auschwitz, was to be a main speaker, but on Friday, Wiesel said he had not made up his mind on whether to attend the ceremonies.

Responding to Bubis's comments, Wiesel said, "Bubis knows about my plans better than I do. I have not made up my mind. I may go. I am waiting for more information before I make my decision."

He added he wanted to see what the program was before making his decision, which would involve having to cancel other

News agencies

events that he had planned.

Bubis said the Polish government was contradictory, sometimes saying it was only the host but not accepting suggestions from the International Auschwitz Committee, an organization of survivors.

Bubis is to be a member of the German delegation, headed by President Roman Herzog, to the Auschwitz commemorations.

"If there isn't yet another special scandal, I will take part in the commemoration," Bubis said.

An editorial in the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper on Friday said it was "grotesque" of the Polish planners to omit the kaddish from the schedule.

The Berlin newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel* commented that the controversy recalled Jewish objections to a Catholic convent at the Auschwitz site, but the strife was nonetheless important to establish a sort of hierarchy of victims of the Nazi death machine.

"Germans can only observe this with the humility appropriate to the descendants of the perpetrators," the newspaper said. Meanwhile, a Polish refugee

source in New York familiar with the controversy over the January 27 ceremony said one problem was that the Polish government appeared to be very late in sending out invitations and had still not come up with a program for the ceremony.

The source said that Wiesel was asked just after the New Year by Polish President Lech Walesa to write a draft of a message from Nobel Peace Prize winners on the meaning of tolerance.

He said that Wiesel had to turn the offer down because he felt he would not have enough time to write a text of such importance and then clear it with his Nobel colleagues.

In a copy of a letter the source gave Reuters written by Wiesel to Walesa, Wiesel said, "Granted I am a writer - but I write slowly, carefully."

The World Jewish Congress, which has stirred a controversy in Poland by saying it would attend a separate Jewish ceremony at the death camp on January 26, said it had not yet made its mind on whether to attend the official ceremony.

A spokesman said the group wanted to see the program first

but stressed that the January 26 ceremony was not designed to compete with the official ceremony or supplant it.

Sources said Jewish groups are concerned that the official Polish ceremony have a Jewish component to it because Auschwitz is, in effect, the world's largest Jewish cemetery.

The sources said it was still not known if the ceremony would end with the kaddish, as had been requested.

A top aide to Polish President Lech Walesa said on Thursday he was amazed by news that the WJC planned separate ceremonies.

"We are astonished by the decision of the World Jewish Congress to organize separate ceremonies - a decision which we have learned about from the mass media," Andrzej Zakrzewski said in a statement.

"The form of the announcement leads us to suspect that personal ambition may be playing a part here," he added without giving details.

He asked whether the WJC planned to take over a religious ceremony planned at the camp by Polish Jews on January 26.

King's birthday to be commemorated by Jewish organizations

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

THE birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been placed on the Jewish communal calendar of World Jewish Congress affiliates, the organization announced last week, so that Jews around the world will commemorate the memory and legacy of the slain US civil rights leader.

"We the Jewish people are a people with a long memory," Evelyn Sommer, chairwoman of the WJC's American section, said in an often-emotional ceremony in New York. "We can never forget that Martin Luther King stood with us in struggles to free Soviet Jewry, to fight antisemitism and to support Israel."

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, attended the ceremony, saying many groups have honored her husband, but no honor "has been more significant" than the Jewish community's "recognizing his

birthday as one of your holidays."

Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman are among the martyrs of the Civil Rights movement, King said, referring to two young New Yorkers who were killed, along with their black colleague, in Mississippi two decades ago. They had gone to the South in 1964 - a few months before King won the Nobel Peace Prize - as part of a massive volunteer effort to register black voters in the state.

"He indeed saw the promised land from the mountain top, and we are enjoined to complete that vision for him," Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, wrote to King's widow. Other letters came from the Latin American and European Jewish Congresses, the South African Board of Deputies and Yehiel Leket, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency.

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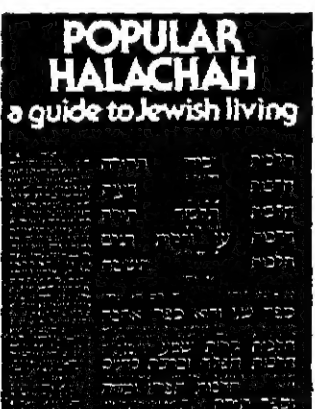
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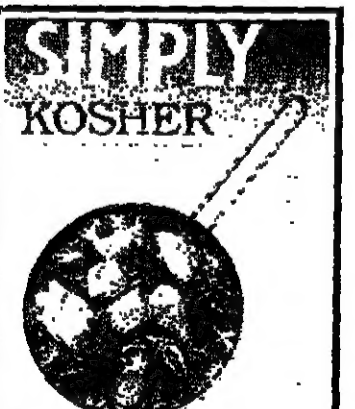
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'Nixon's 18 1/2-minute missing tape was deliberately erased'

WASHINGTON (AP) - Richard Nixon's White House lawyers secretly told a judge that Nixon's secretary intentionally caused an 18 1/2-minute gap in a tape recording that became a key part of the Watergate scandal, a newly disclosed Watergate document asserts.

The claim, charging the destruction of critical evidence, is contained in a legal memo among 35,500 pages of Rose Mary Woods' White House files made public Thursday by the US National Archives. She has always denied being the culprit in the biggest remaining mystery of the Watergate saga, besides the identity of "Deep Throat."

The erased tape carried part of a conversation between Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, three days after the June 17,

1972, break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate office complex.

Nixon was re-elected in November 1972, but the Watergate burglary and evidence linking him to a cover-up led to his resignation on August 9, 1974. Nixon died last year.

The newly disclosed document is dated January 10, 1974. It appears to have been prepared by Miss Woods' lawyer, Charles Rhyne, now retired, or his assistants. But it carries no letterhead or signature.

Rhyne became her attorney after White House lawyers Leonard Garment and the late Fred Buzhardt made their accusation without informing her and, on the following day, advised her "that she should secure another attorney," the memo said.

Garment, in an interview Thursday, denied

that he and Buzhardt accused Miss Woods of creating the tape gap. He said they merely reported to Judge John Sirica, handling the Watergate case, and to special prosecutor Leon Jaworski that a gap existed.

He said he advised Miss Woods, through Haldeman's successor, Alexander Haig, to get a lawyer. He said he and Buzhardt represented the presidency, rather than Miss Woods.

"I'm not sure to this day who monkeyed with the tape," Garment said.

Miss Woods, who served Nixon through most of his political life, always denied causing the full gap, although she testified in court that she accidentally erased four or five minutes of the tape by pushing the record button while taking a telephone call.

Man crashes car into Buckingham Palace gates

LONDON (AP) - A troubled student crashed his Volkswagen Scirocco into the gates of Buckingham Palace early Friday, knocking down one gate and damaging his car.

No members of the royal family were at the palace in central London at the time, but the crash woke several members of the household, a palace spokesman said.

Police inspector Jon Newman said psychiatrists who interviewed the 21-year-old man found that he was mentally unstable and committed him to a psychiatric unit.

Newman said the man, whose name was not released, drove about 480 kilometers from Wakefield, where he was a student, before crashing into the palace gates at 4:35 a.m. One of the 2 1/2-ton gates collapsed on the hood of the car, but the driver was not injured.

"This is not a normal thing that you would expect a sane person to do," Newman said.

No charge of criminal damage will be brought because the crash cannot be proved to be deliberate or reckless, he said.

Since 1990, at least two other cars have hit the 84-year-old cast-iron gates where tourists gather to watch the changing of the guard.

Later, workmen erected a temporary barrier across the damaged entrance.

The traffic circle outside Buckingham Palace is one of the busiest junctions in London, with 5,000 cars swirling around the Queen Victoria memorial outside the palace every hour.

Two people have been killed in the past three years crossing the traffic circle, and 20 sightseers a year are injured trying to cross the road to reach the palace.

British tabloid: Princess Di may testify in court

LONDON (Reuters) - Princess Diana may become the first member of Britain's royal family to appear in court this century, Britain's tabloid *Daily Express* said yesterday.

Diana told her lawyers she was willing to testify in her lawsuit against those responsible for publishing sneak photographs of her exercising in a gym, the paper said.

"Her lawyers have made it clear that Diana wants to go in the witness box... she will do everything she can to get justice," the *Daily Express* quoted a legal source as saying.

The glamorous princess, who appeared in public on Friday after a long absence, is suing the gym's former owner Bryce Taylor and Mirror Group Newspapers for breach of confidence and is understood to have the full

backing of the queen.

Diana wants an order against Taylor and the newspaper group for profits made from the sale and publication of the photographs - which could exceed \$1 million (\$1.57 million) - as well as possession of the negatives and prints.

Taylor, former owner of LA Fitness, will claim she had known the photographs were being taken, the *Daily Express* said.

After shunning the limelight for months, an animated Princess Diana visited a homeless shelter in London and braved the winter cold to mingle with cheering crowds on Friday.

It was Diana's second public appearance in as many days and followed a fresh wave of press speculation on the likelihood of a divorce with her estranged husband Prince Charles.

150-0000

A CD-ROM hunt for 10 Lost Tribes

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

A new CD-ROM on the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel won't tell you for certain where they disappeared to some 2,700 years ago, but it will give you a lot of clues.

Based on a highly successful exhibition held at Tel Aviv's Beth Hatefutsot (Diaspora Museum) in 1991, the unusual disk will interest not only Jews but also non-Jewish Bible-lovers and sects — such as the nine million Mormons who claim to be descendants of those Lost Tribes.

"The Ten Lost Tribes are not a major element of Judaism," says Aron Trauring, director of Maxima New Media (POB 1195, Kichav Ya'ir), which turned the museum exhibition into the CD-ROM.

"Most Jews, even observant ones, don't know much about the story and the myths. But it fascinates many non-Jews. At the Comdex computer software exhibition in Las Vegas, where we presented our new product, many Christians came up to me and showed they knew quite a bit about the Ten Lost Tribes. These were history buffs and ordinary people — Christians but not Jews."

Selling for \$30 to \$40 in the US, *Beyond the Sambaton: The Myth of the Ten Lost Tribes* is

being published by Creative Multimedia, a leading US multimedia publishing company. There are no immediate plans to produce it in Hebrew for the Israeli market, as CD-ROM players are not yet common enough here, says Trauring. But the English-language disk is on sale at Beth Hatefutsot and will soon appear in computer software stores.

The Ten Tribes lived in the northern Kingdom of Israel, while the tribes of Judah and Benjamin lived in the southern Kingdom of Judah. When the Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom in 722 BCE, the Jews in both kingdoms were exiled. The tribes of Benjamin and Judah scattered. The Lost Tribes, legend has it, lived beyond the mysterious river Sambaton. This fabled river rolled furiously six days a week, making it impossible for the tribes to cross back to Israel. On Shabbat, the river grew quiet, but the tribes couldn't venture on any journey on the holy day. Thus they were doomed to remain in oblivion. Or so goes the myth, says Trauring.

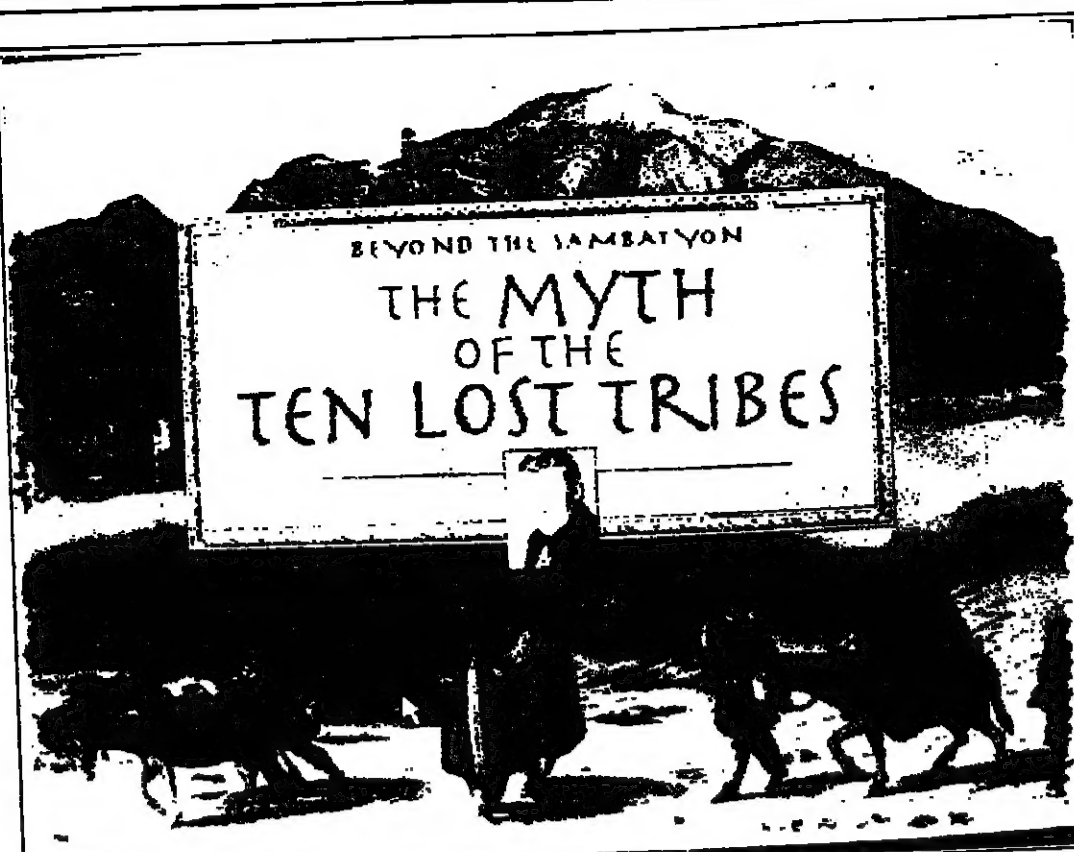
Ethiopian Jews are believed to come from the tribe of Dan and have been recognized as such by the Chief Rabbinate.

The Samaritans — who never left the Land of Israel — are believed by some historians to be true descendants of the Lost Tribes.

Many peoples and sects have claimed to be descendants of the ancient tribes, including the Lembas in south-central Africa, blacks in New York, Japanese, American Indians, the Chiang-Min in China, the Ebo in Biafra and the Beni Menashe of India (who have been brought here by a local rabbi and now live in Kiryat Arba). Several false messiahs, including Shabbetai Zvi, have claimed a connection to these missing Jews as well.

THE CD-ROM, put on the market only a few months ago, is Maxima's first product, but it is already Creative Multimedia's third-best-selling piece of software in the US, says Trauring. Suitable for either Windows or Macintosh. It was a popular Christmas gift. Fundamentalists Christians believe that the Redemption will come only when all the 12 tribes of Israel are reunited in Israel; thus they have been eager to have a role in finding the Lost Ten.

The CD-ROM menu is divided into four parts. There is a geographical atlas according to com-



So far, this CD-ROM has attracted interest mainly among Christians and Mormons. (Yaakov Brill)

munities claiming to be descendants; pressing on a community's name with the mouse brings up video, stills and sound on that community. Then there are texts of letters written by travelers from the first to the 17th century CE, including one from the assistant of Shabbetai Zvi.

The third section presents personalities involved in the Ten Tribes stories, while the fourth section — possibly the most fascinating — includes slides and

video interviews with living persons who claim to be descendants or who are experts in the field.

The multimedia disk contains thousands of illustrations and photographs, and contains 90 minutes of narration by American actor Stacy Keach. Users can print out text and study an extensive bibliography.

"We almost left the Mormons out of the program," notes Trauring with some embarrassment. "Only in the end did we

include them: But it turns out that this group is a major market, and the percentage of Salt Lake City (Utah) residents who have CD-ROM drives is very high."

In all, some 12 million Americans have CD-ROM readers in their personal computers, he adds.

"The story of the Lost Tribes is a very strange story," says Trauring. "But it holds the great power of myth. It can spread the good name of Israel."

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...a problem

NEW WORLDS

POST SCIENCE REPORTER

An unusual new archive at Tel Aviv University comprises feathers from 150 avian species common to Israel. The purpose is to help the Air Force identify the types of birds liable to collide with its planes.

Mid-air encounters with birds, which are either sucked into the engines or collide with the body of the plane, have caused damage and loss of life. Airports are usually located near agricultural areas, where many birds nest; in order more effectively to scare the birds away, it is necessary to identify the species that endanger flights.

Judy Shimon of the TAU zoology department assembled the archive. Shimon did her master's degree research examining and identifying the feathers found in the jet engines or stuck to the body of planes; in most cases, the feathers were the only parts left of the birds.

Shimon was able to identify their owners by bird type, because feathers are believed to be so unique to a species that they are almost like human fingerprints.

She confirmed the identities by comparing them with feathers of preserved birds exhibited in the zoology department.

Shimon found that quails from the Ben-Gurion Airport area were very frequently involved in collisions with planes. Swallows, lapwings and certain pigeons were also involved in many mishaps; 60 percent of collisions involved such birds, which weigh less than 100 grams.

Shimon also discovered that the worst month for such collisions is March, with twice the

number of mishaps than any other month.

Her most interesting discovery was that the feathers of large migratory predators were rarely found on aircraft.

Shimon's work, and the doctoral research on bird migrations of Yossi Leshem of the Society for the Protection of Nature, have already succeeded in reducing the number of collisions.

NO MORE HEADACHES

Fifth-graders dread fractions, because children intuitively understand whole numbers better than just parts.

Etz Computers of Jerusalem has developed a five-diskette program called *Shvarim Lelo Mashberim* ("Fractions Without Crises"). To teach the mysteries of fractions.

The package was tried on second-graders; after going through the program, youngsters even at this age were able to get through fifth-grade math textbooks with ease, says Anat Cohen, who developed the program with her husband Zvika. The Cohens have specialized in educational software aimed at teaching very young children to read Hebrew and to appreciate music.

A VGA screen, hard disk and sound card are needed along with 10 megabytes of memory.

The five diskettes are sold for NIS 159 only by phone order from Etz Computers (02-415243).

COMPUTERIZED

COMPOSITION

What would Stibell say about a new computer program named for him? Produced by two brothers in Cambridge, England, the system allows music students to come into their orchestral composition classes with floppy disks instead of manuscript paper, and then hear their homework brought to life by an electronic orchestra.

New Scientist reports that the Royal Academy of Music in London has installed the £2,000 system, which runs on an Acorn RISC computer. To write notes on a conventional musical staff on the screen, the student positions a cursor with a mouse and then uses the keyboard to register the note's duration.

The composer can also play music into the PC from a special keyboard to do this. Sibelius works like a modern word-processing program, formatting all information as it is entered and updating the full score 10 times per second.

SOLAR CELLULAR

Cellular phones are wonderful, but their batteries run down fast. Now a Motorola cellular phone has been developed to run on solar energy, allowing users to talk outdoors (or even indoors under strong light) and recharge at the same time. They will soon be marketed first in the US.

The latest issue of *Popular Science* describes the first-ever solar-rechargeable battery for cellular phones. Called SolarLife. The price should be comparable to that of conventional cellular-phone batteries.

It may be poisonous, but nitric oxide can save lives

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

NITRIC oxide (NO) is a poisonous gas found in contaminated air, but it has recently been introduced for treating patients and actually saving their lives.

The gas is produced in minute quantities in the body, according to Dr. Binyamin Drenger, an anesthesiologist at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

It plays a vital role in the body's communications and control systems that ensure the proper functioning of the circulatory and immune systems.

"By giving critically ill patients a tiny but controlled amount of NO to inhale, doctors can expand blood vessels in their lungs and thereby reduce high blood pressure in this organ without causing a drop in blood pressure in the rest of the body," says Drenger.

The gas is used at Hadassah to treat patients suffering from acute respiratory distress, including premature babies and adults after heart surgery who cannot breathe without a heart-lung machine.

Minute amounts of the gas not only reduce pressure in the blood vessels of the lungs but also restore proper heart functioning by preventing involuntary contraction of the coronary arteries.

Drenger says the gas is being used experimentally for this purpose in a handful of medical centers abroad: Hadassah-Ein Kerem is the first in Israel to purchase the special equipment

and to use it on its patients.

LIFESAVER IN DIMONA Residents of Dimona and environs should now feel safer: they have just received an intensive-care ambulance (ICA) from Magen David Adom.

Until now, Magen David Adom's nearest mobile intensive care unit (MICU) was in Beer-sheva. The Dimona ICA is equipped with the latest life-saving devices and manned by a paramedic and medic/driver who have been trained to deal with cardiac arrest, arrhythmia, respiratory distress, and road- and work-accident victims.

This type of ambulance has the same equipment as a MICU, but is manned by only two people, rather than three (the MICU also has a doctor).

The reduced need for staff has allowed MDA to expand its intensive-care services, which now encompass 22 locations. The first intensive-care ambulance, which operates in Karmiel, has been very successful, treating over 1,700 patients since 1993.

BELT EASES LIFTING

A new support belt that weight lifters wear is being sold to ease the lifting of ordinary burdens that would otherwise cause back problems.

Safe-T-Lift, made in the US and marketed here by the ACE houseware chain, looks like a black belt with suspenders. Made of lightweight synthetic fiber, it supports the lower back during

lifting. The importer says the belt prevents the wearer from moving incorrectly while picking up something heavy.

The belt costs NIS 159.95. A support for the hand, aimed at computer workers, which sells for NIS 25.40, is said to reduce the risk of carpal-tunnel injuries due to repeated movement of the wrist.



Doctors say sneezing is hardly an affair of the heart. (Sarit Uziel)

Gesundheit: Something to sneeze at

TELL ME WHY

POST SCIENCE REPORTER

Why do people say gesundheit (good health) when someone sneezes?

I heard that the heart jumps a beat after a sneeze, so the observer blesses the sneezer for surviving. Zvika, Ramat Gan

Dr. David Cohen, head of the ear-nose-and-throat department, and Dr. Michael Hart, a cardiologist at the Jusselison Heart Center, both at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, reply:

When chemicals, dust, strong odors or mucus irritate a certain area in the nose, the body responds with a sneeze — an attempt to clear away the irritant. Sneezing also causes a sudden buildup of high pressure in the chest and abdomen.

This is not at all dangerous, but it may cause the muscle at the bottom of the bladder to expand and allow some urine to escape. There is no other known effect of sneezing, and certainly none on the heart. The custom of saying gesundheit is based on superstition.

Why does arak turn white when you add water? Yosef, Tel Aviv

A chemist at the Hebrew University agriculture faculty's food and nutrition department (who prefers anonymity) responds:

Etheric oil in anise, which is a component of arak, forms a solution when mixed with water. Etheric oil is naturally transparent, but when it binds with water in solution, it turns the arak from clear to cloudy.

Why do products made of Duralux glass break into a million little pieces instead of shattering into a few pieces like regular glass? Susie, Ra'anana

Dr. Rina Reisfeld, an expert on glasses at the Hebrew University's department of inorganic chemistry, answers:

Just as a piece of cloth with holes tears when it is pulled, Duralux glass breaks into many pieces because it has weaker links in its structure than regular glass. Regular glass is composed of uniform molecules of silicate units, which are held together by strong oxygen bonds. Duralux is a mixture of ceramic materials and regular glass; the ceramic materials provide extra strength and resistance to heat during ordinary use, but the bonds between the units are weaker. When Duralux glass

falls and breaks, it collapses along the borders of these many weak groups of molecules.

Why do all insects have six legs? Debby, Beersheva

Prof. Meir Pater of the Hebrew University's cell and animal biology department comments:

Until about 250 million years ago, there were insects with various numbers of legs. But the six-legged insect "model" was the most successful, so more insects with six legs survived and had offspring, and the others died out.

Similarly, all vertebrates have four legs (that includes birds, whose wings can be considered legs, and humans, whose arms are, really legs), because this number allowed them to carry out functions that increased their chances of survival.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, c/o Jerusalem Post Science & Technology Reporter Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, or fax it to (02) 389527. Please include your first name and place of residence. Calls will not be accepted.

ARE YOU ENTERTAINING?

CLOWNS, JUGGLERS, MAGICIANS, and MUSICIANS are asked to volunteer one hour of their time to entertain the children at THE JERUSALEM POST PESSAH HANDICRAFTS FAIR at the Metro-West Sports Center in Ra'anana on Tuesday, April 18

Funds raised at the Fair go to help Israel's disadvantaged children, senior citizens and new immigrants.

Volunteer an hour and help a good cause. Contact Beverlee Black, Director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, Tel. 02-233986

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Baker's extremists

THAT former secretary of state James Baker is an enthusiastic supporter of stationing American troops on the Golan is hardly surprising. It was an idea his Middle East team cooked up soon after the Madrid conference, and it was he who suggested the idea to then-prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. The idea fit perfectly into Baker's concept of a pax Americana in the region, in which a dwarfed Israel will be in effect an American protectorate.

What is surprising about Baker's testimony before the House International Relations Committee is that he referred to opponents of the idea as "extremists." Among these opponents are prominent senators, both Democrats and Republicans, known for moderation and centrist leanings. They include Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York (Dem.), Connie Mack of Florida (Rep.) and Arien Specter of Pennsylvania (Rep.). To call them extremists is a demagogic distortion, more appropriate in election-campaign propaganda than in testimony before a congressional committee.

What seems to bother Baker most is that the subject is being discussed at all. Like the Clinton administration and the Israeli government, he opposes debate on the issue on the pretext that it is "premature," since neither Israel nor Syria has yet requested American troop deployment. But, clearly, this is a disingenuous excuse. Advocates of the idea simply want the "debate" to be one-sided. While Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Secretary of State Warren Christopher persistently sing the idea's praises and try to "sell" it at every opportunity and every available forum, its American and Israeli opponents should keep silent until "the right time."

Advocates of the idea assume, not unreasonably, that if the subject is debated in the US as a

separate issue now, it will be rejected out of hand by Congress and the public. Indeed, all polls show Americans are openly unenthusiastic about stationing American troops anywhere, particularly if there is potential risk to the soldiers and no time limit to the deployment.

What Baker and others who favor the Americans-on-the-Golan solution hope is that at "the right time" no debate will be necessary; that once a whole peace treaty package with Syria is persuasively presented to Congress, the troops component will appear as a minor, though essential, detail. The repeated hammering by Israel and the US on the similarity between the stationing of American "peace monitors" in the Sinai and deploying a thousand or so American troops on the Golan should by then convince both Americans and Israelis that the whole idea is relatively harmless and risk-free.

But if there is one thing the Oslo agreement should have taught the government it is that the absence of debate is not only an insult to democratic procedures but a prescription for disaster. If there are provisions in the Declaration of Principles that cannot be implemented because they pose grave security risks, and if Rabin is reportedly distancing himself from the agreement, it is because the negotiations' secrecy prevented public debate and the input of various branches of the government and the military.

On the Golan issue the government is committed to going to the people, either through a referendum or an election, before signing on the dotted line. This is precisely why the time to debate the issues, both here and the US, is now, before a fait accompli is presented to the public. Once another flawed agreement is signed, public discussion will be nothing more than an exercise in futility.

The Hebron stabbing

NOT all the news about the latest terrorist attack in Hebron was bad. True, the two recent immigrants who were stabbed on Thursday while shopping in an Arab store were victims of infinite hatred. What made a passing terrorist attempt to kill them was that the two Kiryat Arba residents spoke Hebrew. But when they collapsed in an open field after escaping the scene, Arab residents gave them aid, picked them up and drove them to safety. That these Arabs, related to a wanted terrorist, risked incurring the wrath of local fanatics is a triumph of humanity over terror.

It is always a wonder that residents of such communities as Kiryat Arba would risk going shopping in Hebron at all, let alone unarmed. Perhaps it demonstrates a desire to keep life on a normal keel despite all the risks. And perhaps the imperatives of making a living overcome caution. But it is impossible to disagree with Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover,

who called their action irresponsible.

But the fact that their personal weapons had been confiscated by the army cannot be ignored. In the days following the massacre at the Machpela Cave, many Jewish residents were deprived of weapons on the grounds that they were "potential troublemakers."

It is not clear why David Hadad and Mark Ohayon, the two victims of Thursday's attack, were considered dangerous. But, clearly, the authorities' eagerness to avert another massacre made them overreact. Most of the charges against residents suspected of organizing a Jewish underground have been either dropped or changed to relatively minor indictments.

The Thursday incident indicates that the security forces should reexamine their policy on personal arms. Now that the army intends to withdraw from Arab population centers, the Jewish residents must not be left without weapons for self-protection.



Case of benign neglect

JAMES Joyce and Jorge Luis Borges share a pair of injustices.

Both writers were passed over by the Nobel Prize Committee - Borges was an official candidate so many times that he called his not getting the literature award "a Scandinavian tradition" - and both have suffered from neglect by the compilers of Jewish encyclopedias.

Many literary figures whose works have less Jewish content enjoy more recognition. There are entries in Jewish encyclopedias for Cervantes, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Scott, Dickens and many others.

But Joyce and Borges are conspicuously absent, despite the fact that both writers were clearly intrigued and attracted by Jewish themes. Far more important, both explored Jewishness through the characters they created.

Joyce, who was born in 1882 in Dublin and died in 1941, illustrated the perplexity of modern man through the character of a Jew estranged from his tradition - Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of *Ulysses*.

In this novel we find biblical prophets and Jewish historical figures, as well as numerous allusions to Judaism and antisemitism.

Jewish tradition is evoked by references to tefillin and the *Shema* and *Kol Nidre* prayers, to bar mitzva, and the Haggada. Even the first lines of "Hailkva" appear - in the original Hebrew.

As we read *Ulysses*, which is perhaps the most important novel of the century, the perplexities of an assimilated Jew begin to emerge. And, just as it is impossible to understand *Ulysses* fully without probing its references to Greek mythology and Irish history, so Bloom's Jewishness must be similarly considered.

JORGE LUIS Borges, born in Buenos Aires in 1899 and widely considered the greatest modern writer in Spanish, makes diverse references in his multifaceted writings. Yet one civilization was of particular and profound interest to him: Judaism.

The first book he read in German was Gustav Meyrink's *Der Golem*, a fantasy about the Prague ghetto. The book triggered his lifelong interest in Kabbalistic motifs.

But his knowledge of Judaism dates back to early childhood and his British grandmother, who was a great Bible lover.

Borges frequently thought of himself as a Jew, with characteristic modesty: "I have done my best to be a Jew. I may have failed... Many a time I think of

GUSTAVO PEREDNIK

myself as a Jew, but I wonder whether I have the right... It may be wishful thinking."

In one of his prologues he confesses that he never allowed his political opinions to influence his literature, with one exception: "when urged by the exaltation of the Six Day War."

When that war broke out, he wrote a poem called "Israel" and

Two great writers, Joyce and Borges, merit far more attention from Jews than they have received

burst into the library of the Sociedad Hebraica Argentina, where he is said to have spontaneously recited it to an amazed audience. He concluded with the words: "Long live the motherland [Israel]!"

At the end of the First World War, in Madrid, Borges befriended the Marrano writer Rafael Cansinos Assens, of whom he thereafter considered himself a disciple. From Assens he understood the option that Spain of the 1920s offered the intellectual: Catholic tradition and conservative antisemitism, or pluralistic liberalism and philo-Semitism.

This choice he brought back to Buenos Aires, where ascendant Nazism pushed him to a militant love for the Jews.

Shortly after Hitler came to power, Borges wrote an article entitled "I, a Jew," in which he mocked the "accusation" of Argentine antisemitism that he was of Jewish descent.

But Borges's most creative period was during the Second World War, when he published a prologue to *Meistersinger of Jewry*, by his friend the poet Carlos Grunberg, in which he stresses the value of Argentinian-Jewish integration.

POSTSCRIPTS

POSTSCRIPTS HAS selected its Man of the Year: Al Gliniecki of Pensacola, Florida.

Al did what Rabin, Arafat, the pope and Clinton could only dream of achieving: he set a world record by tying 679 cherry stems into little knots with his tongue.

We're not the only publication to recognize Al's greatness. The *Guinness Book of Records* plans to put him in the next edition.

"It feels good to be included," Al said, referring to the book of records, not Postscripts. "I'm the world's best at something."

Battle of Algiers

ROBIN WRIGHT

THE world is finally waking up to Algeria's civil war, a conflict that has raged for three years.

Algeria first erupted in the mid-1950s. Over eight years, close to a million people died as France tried to put down a war for independence that later served as the model for European colonies throughout Africa and Asia.

The current war has grown out of another inevitable struggle. In some ways it is a sequel to that conflict launched four decades ago.

Last time, the issue was independence. This time, the flash point is democracy.

A new generation of Algerian

The real issue in Algeria isn't Islamic 'fundamentalism.' It is democracy

idealists, the largest number mobilized this time around an Islamic banner, is prepared to fight and die in the cause of ending totalitarian military rule seized in a 1992 coup that aborted the country's first free, multiparty parliamentary elections.

The French paper *Le Parisien* quoted a secret Algerian army report disclosing that almost 35,000 people were killed in the first 10 months of 1994. That's more than 100 a day - killed not en masse by artillery or bombs, but mostly one by one.

Politically, the system is corrupt, incompetent and backed by a military elite. Support reportedly wavers even among the security force rank-and-file.

Economically, the regime barely earns enough off natural gas and hydrocarbon resources to repay the interest on its stunning foreign debt, much less address the even more staggering housing, unemployment, inflation and poverty problems that spawned widespread disillusionment.

Paris and other European capitals have backed the junta politically, economically and by allowing sales of goods for military use. No policy could be more misguided.

FIRST, tolerating the regime's vast human-rights abuses - including mass detentions, torture, summary justice in thousands of secret trials, and murder - quickly created an environment conducive to the emergence of extremism.

With the bell box off-limits, the mainstream Islamic Salvation Front, or FIS - on the verge of sweeping the 1992 election when it was aborted and FIS outlawed - turned to the ballot. Guerrillas loyal to FIS and the Islamic Salvation Army now regularly target government and military personnel and installations - ironically, a virtual repeat of FLN (National Liberation Front) strategy against the French four decades ago.

More ominously, the crisis spawned a new faction of hardened Islamic extremists who have gone after Algerian civilians and foreigners as well as soft targets, such as passenger planes. And unlike FIS, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has been unwilling to talk with the junta about a peaceful compromise.

Second, the evolving pattern of political change in the Middle East since the late 1980s disorients Western fears. In every Arab country where Islamist parties were allowed to participate in elections, including Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen and Lebanon, they have demonstrated a willingness to work for peaceful change within systems - and not to destroy them by violent means from outside.

Conversely, Islamist extremism is highest in countries where Islamic parties are excluded and elections are either nonexistent or government-controlled, such as Egypt.

The real issue in Algeria is not Islamic "fundamentalism." It is democracy.

If Islamists from either end of their spectrum come to power and violate the new craving for democracy by not empowering all people, they too will be challenged - and ultimately lose.

Something far deeper is going on in North Africa, of which Islam is only one part. The tides of history are moving in a broader direction.

(AP)

(Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DANGEROUS MIXTURE

Sir, - It is characteristic of partnerships - be they commercial, political or marital - that as long as they are thriving, the partners live in harmony, but when failure begins to dog them, the partners begin to quarrel and blame each other for the misfortune.

One could put it also differently: whenever partners to an enterprise begin to quarrel - especially in public - it is a sure sign that the partnership is in trouble.

This is the picture presented nowadays by our Labor Party. The prime minister abuses not only political opponents but also his ministers, the ministers quarrel among themselves and some of them openly demand a reshuffle (which would, of course, promote them to more important posts); the party's Knesset members blame the present leadership, the party's secretary-general is both aghast and nonplussed, and the public becomes increasingly disenchanted with a government that seems adrift, reacting rather than leading.

Time magazine's report of a recent poll of popularity, which showed the party as well as its leader trailing behind their main opponents, caused the Labor leadership to engage in serious soul-searching and in a no less serious search for scapegoats.

In this double search, the leader was finally leading. Mr. Rabin bravely "took all the responsibility" upon himself, but simultaneously blamed "the anarchy" on the party he is supposed to lead and demanded more discipline among the party's Knesset members. That means in practice that they would have to accept without murmur both his decisions and the high-handed way in which they are taken and announced - which is exactly what many of them are rebelling against.

The head of the government refuses to acknowledge - the ritual of "taking all the responsibility" notwithstanding - that he is the main culprit in this affair. On the one hand, his style of governing is secretive and authoritarian; on the other hand, it is weak and inconsistent. It is a rather dangerous mixture.

As Mr. Rabin quite naturally blames others for the party's misfortunes, we are probably in for more of the same. As there is no obvious heir to his mantle - Mr. Peres is not highly popular with the general public and might not succeed even in rallying the party behind him - the outlook is for more trouble: for Mr. Rabin, for the Labor Party and for the country at large. KATRIEL BEN-ARIE

FREE ADVERTISING

Sir, - It is utterly dismaying to frequently view on television interviews of public officials or scenes showing them at cabinet meetings, with cigarettes dangling in their hands or mouths. This criticism applies to many public officials - first and foremost to the prime minister, the minister of communications and the minister of the environment, not to mention countless supposedly intelligent leaders of all our political parties.

What they do in the privacy of their homes is their business, but anything they do in an official capacity has to be performed in a responsible fashion. Don't they care about the influence they have on people of all ages (particularly young people)? The ills of smoking and passive smoking are well documented facts.

The tobacco industry must be thrilled with the millions of dollars of free advertising that these illustrious public servants provide. MAX WIENER

PUBLIC MORALITY

Sir, - Once upon a time, the story is told, a generation ago, the head of the Mossad (known only as the Chief), received a visit from the captain of the *Exodus*. In those days, the main work of the Mossad was rescuing Jews and bringing them to Israel. The Chief lived in a cheap rented room while he negotiated million-dollar deals. When asked what he would like for refreshment, the captain requested "tea and cake." The Chief ordered two teas. "On public money," he reproved... "you don't eat cake." (Kimche, *The Secret Road*, p. 220).

What a far cry from today when our esteemed legislators vie for how much public funds they can irresponsibly squander on themselves, their cronies and, worst of all, their failures. What moral bankruptcy to witness daily when the Histadrut and kibbutzim affiliated with the Labor Party blackmail the government into making dire financial concessions, and politicians legally rape the economic structure of our country. Official selfishness seems to be a way of life here and, sadly, no political reform movement addresses that issue.

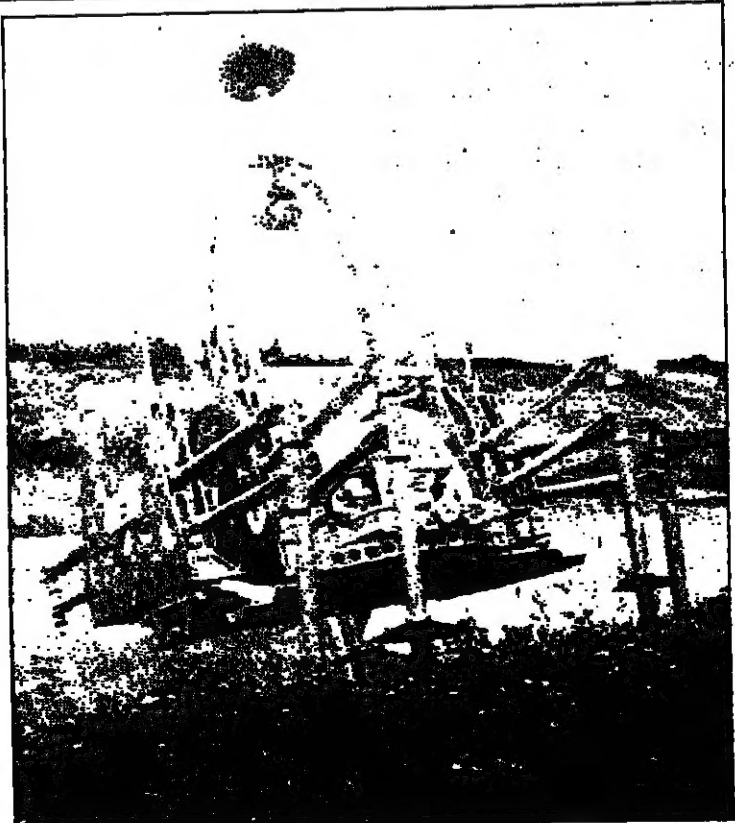
We have produced a system of mediocrity at best that verges on the absurd, a standard of incompetence that is often nothing less than criminal. And no one dares to say "J'accuse" - because they are afraid that they will not be invited to the slop fests and orgies of accolades.

The able comptroller is a lone voice of reason among the choruses of fools. But she too focuses on those areas and individuals that she thinks are important because she too is part of the system. Nothing is done; no one seems to care. Her scoldings are part of a tapestry of shame.

MOSHE DANN

Jerusalem.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT

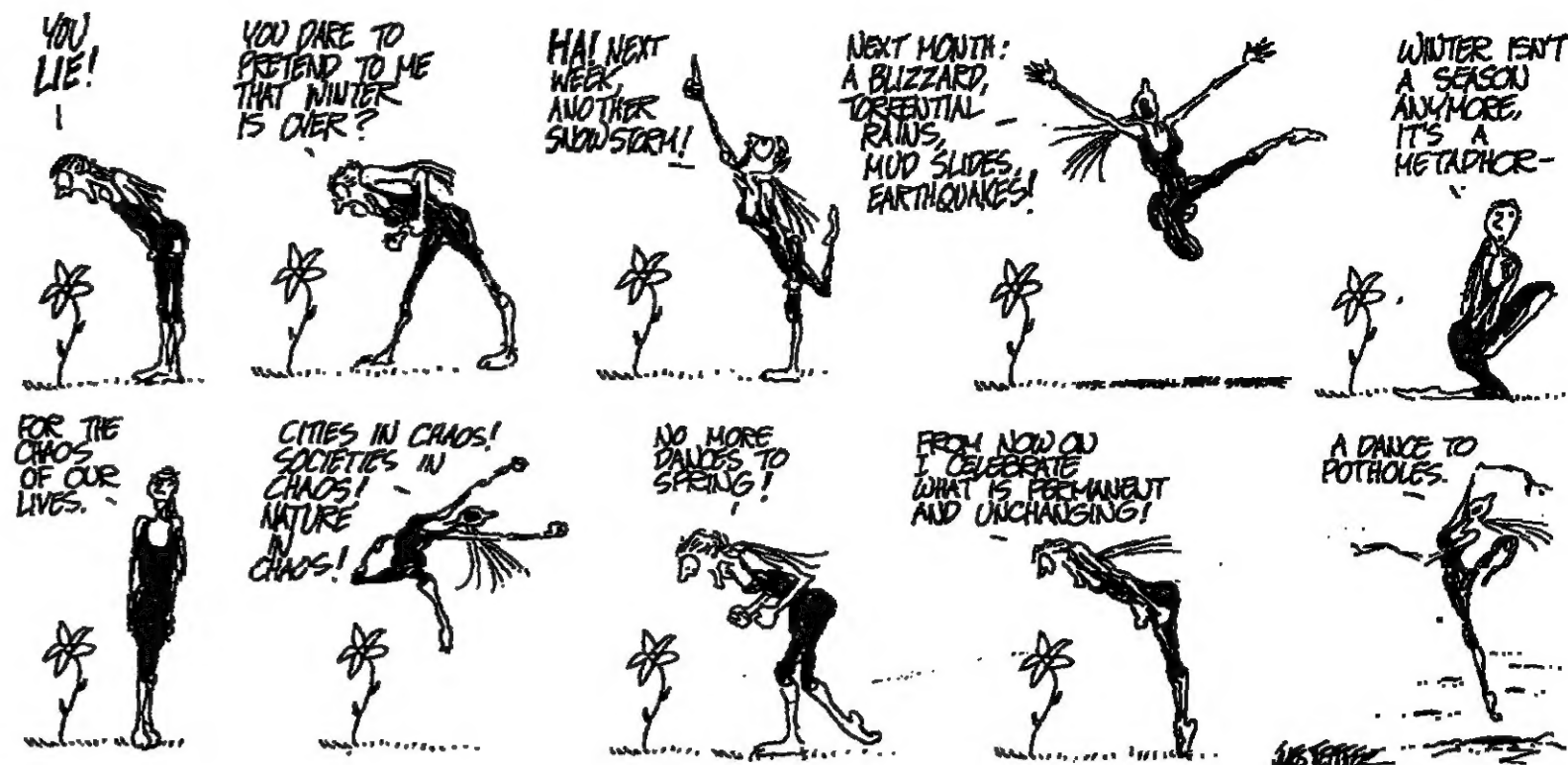


Meet Dante, an eight-legged mountain-climbing robot. NASA threw it together to go where mortals would rather not - such as the crater on Mt. Spurr volcano in Alaska. The robot braved geyser-like steam and falling boulders to provide NASA with photos and data.

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January 15, 1995

FEIFFER®



Mick Farren

It Can Happen Here

When I was a kid in England, we had school prayers. The ostensible reason was that it would help instill in us an appreciation of God. The practical outcome was that the Protestant kids — who were by far the majority — were easily able to identify the Catholics and Jews so they could beat them up on the way home.

Thus, when Newt Gingrich and his gang start promoting prayer in school as the way to lead America back to traditional values, you have to forgive me for taking a decidedly jaundiced attitude to the whole business.

Have you ever wondered what the start of a fascist takeover really looks like? We can never really know how intelligent Germans felt on that morning when they found that Hitler had a parliamentary majority and what he clearly considered a mandate for change. I'd guess they would have flatly dismissed any accurate projection of the Nazi's ultimate goals as a psychotic's nightmare. My problem is, since our own recent election, I've been having a few psychotic nightmares of my own.

I was always taught that one of the hallmarks of a gentleman was grace in victory. The Republicans can hardly be accused of that. Flush from their perceived midterm landslide and the supposed ratification of the "Contract With America," they seem unable to come up with anything more than smug arrogance, or worse: Jesse Helms threatens the life of President Clinton a couple of days before the anniversary of the JFK assassination. And have you noticed how Pete Wilson's image has changed since the election? He now looks tough-guy grim, always flanked by a phalanx of burly henchmen.

One of the problems with modern politics is that long-term plans are rarely defined. Either they don't exist, or the planners don't want you to know about them. The Republicans were particularly guilty of this in the recent election. They campaigned on a set of immediate specifics, while long-term goals were reduced to nebulous concepts, such as

family values. At first, I assumed that they were merely going for the ultimate knee-jerk policy menu, and their only real motivation was to get their grubby fingers back in the cookie jar. Now I'm beginning to wonder, however, if maybe they really mean it. If you project the possible outcome of current Republican preoccupations, you'll arrive at some extremely scary scenarios. Follow some of this through for a moment...

The Republicans want to cut welfare spending. If this places dependent children at risk, Wilson has suggested, perhaps they should be incarcerated in orphanages. The Republicans also want welfare to become work-related. Unfortunately, with education already decimated, many welfare recipients are functionally unemployable. In an environment that is already overloaded with crime, guns, and drugs, many will be forced into criminal survival modes. But that's OK, because the Republicans want to build lots more prisons and ramp up the crime bill to put the emphasis back on punishment and slash funding for crime prevention. The logical outcome of all this would be the incarceration of increasing numbers of the underclass — the kids in orphanages, the adults in jails. If we then have an American gulag filled with the poor, the illiterate, and the jobless, the question becomes: What separates a prison-orphanage from a concentration camp — architecture or attitude?

Going one step further, what happens when we all get pissed off at forking over our tax dollars to support tens of millions of prisoners and orphans? Do we privatize the penal system so, without government interference, inmates can be starved and exploited with impunity? Or maybe we'll want to give them manual work, repairing highways and generally fixing up the infrastructure. Unfortunately, the impolite name for that is slave labor.

Or shall we try another approach? The GOP wants a stronger defense. Defense against what, we ask? Well, we have to be ready to fight a number of small conventional wars at the same time. Oh

yeah? If history demonstrates anything, a nation with a powerful military and no real external threat is frequently unable to resist imposing its political will on other nations by force of arms. (Jesse Helms is already muttering about invading Cuba.) Again, the impolite term for this is an army of conquest.

I could go on playing this projection game all night. It's like shooting fish in a barrel. Just check the list — an economic policy that's little more than welfare for the large corporations and the rich, the mass deportations that would supposedly follow if and when Proposition 187 gets out of the courts. Even the idea of downsizing government could also be defined as putting more power in the hands of fewer people. The Republicans trumpet that they want to get government off our backs, unless the back in question happens to be an individual's reproductive rights, religious freedoms, or choice of intoxicants. Many would also appear to have a burning desire to get into the literary-media censorship business.

Is this the dawning of the age of unpleasantness? I really would like to think that it's my private psychotic nightmare, but the list of possible end products chills my blood. Massive incarcerations, slave labor, mass deportations, and an oversized aggressive military? What does that remind you of, dude? The modern Nazi is well aware that the jackboots and black-and-red banners are too much of a giveaway. This does not mean that the heart of a storm trooper can't beat beneath a homely plaid shirt or a single-breasted blue suit.

I may sound hysterical, but I must confess that, if not scared, I'm sure as hell nervous. I used to tell myself how the American people, when the chips were down, would never allow a fascist takeover of either the state or the nation. After the People's performance in the election, though, I'm not sure I exactly trust you sons of bitches to do the right thing anymore.

©1995 Los Angeles Reader

Cohen and Solomon

The Martin Luther King You Don't See on TV

It's become a TV ritual: Every year in mid-January, around the time of Martin Luther King's birthday, we get perfunctory network news reports about "the slain civil rights leader."

The remarkable thing about this annual review of King's life is that several years — his last years — are totally missing, as if flushed down a memory hole.

What TV viewers see is a closed loop of familiar file footage: King battling desegregation in Birmingham (1963); reciting his dream of racial harmony at the rally in Washington (1963); marching for voting rights in Selma, Alabama (1965); and finally, lying dead on the motel balcony in Memphis (1968).

An alert viewer might notice that the chronology jumps from 1965 to 1968. Yet King didn't take a sabbatical near the end of his life. In fact, he was speaking and organizing as diligently as ever.

Almost all of those speeches were filmed or taped. But they're not shown today on TV.

Why? It's because national news media have never come to terms

delivered at New York's Riverside Church on April 4, 1967 — a year to the day before he was murdered — King called the United States "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

From Vietnam to South Africa to Latin America, King said, the U.S. was "on the wrong side of a world revolution." King questioned "our alliance with the landed gentry of Latin America," and asked why the U.S. was suppressing revolutions "of the shirtless and barefoot people" in the Third World, instead of supporting them.

In foreign policy, King also offered an economic critique, complaining about "capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries."

You haven't heard the "Beyond Vietnam" speech on network news retrospectives, but national media heard it loud and clear back in 1967 — and loudly denounced it. *Time* magazine called it "demagogic slander that

The remarkable thing about this annual review of King's life is that several years — his last years — are totally missing, as if flushed down a memory hole.

with what Martin Luther King Jr. stood for during his final years.

In the early 1960s, when King focused his challenge on legalized racial discrimination in the South, most major media were his allies. Network TV and national publications graphically showed the police dogs and bullwhips and cattle prods used against Southern blacks who sought the right to vote or to eat at a public lunch counter.

But after passage of civil rights acts in 1964 and 1965, King began challenging the nation's fundamental priorities. He maintained that civil rights laws were empty without "human rights" — including economic rights. For people too poor to eat at a restaurant or afford a decent home, King said, anti-discrimination laws were hollow.

Noting that a majority of Americans below the poverty line were white, King developed a class perspective. He decried the huge income gaps between rich and poor, and called for "radical changes in the structure of our society" to redistribute wealth and power.

"True compassion," King declared, "is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

By 1967, King had also become the country's most prominent opponent of the Vietnam War, and a staunch critic of overall U.S. foreign policy, which he deemed militaristic. In his "Beyond Vietnam" speech

sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi. *The Washington Post* patronized that "King has diminished his usefulness to his cause, his country, his people."

In his last months, King was organizing the most militant project of his life: the Poor People's Campaign. He crisscrossed the country to assemble "a multiracial army of the poor" that would descend on Washington — engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the Capitol, if need be — until Congress enacted a poor people's bill of rights. *Reader's Digest* warned of an "insurrection."

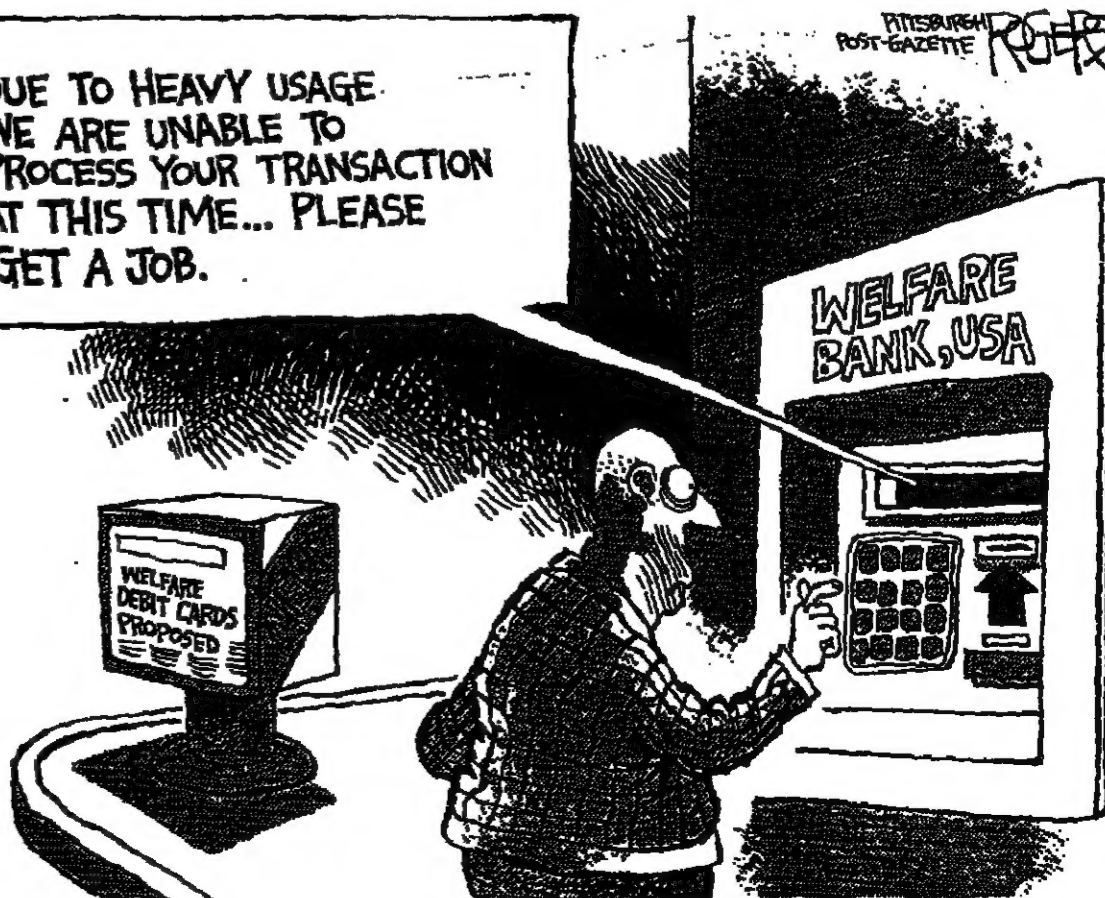
King's economic bill of rights called for massive government jobs programs to rebuild America's cities. He saw a crying need to confront a Congress that had demonstrated its "hostility to the poor" — appropriating "military funds with alacrity and generosity," but providing "poverty funds with miserliness."

How familiar that sounds today, more than a quarter-century after King's efforts on behalf of the poor people's mobilization were cut short by an assassin's bullet.

As 1995 gets underway, in this nation of immense wealth, the White House and Congress continue to accept the perpetuation of poverty. And so do most mass media. Perhaps it's no surprise that they tell us little about the last years of Martin Luther King's life.

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DUE TO HEAVY USAGE WE ARE UNABLE TO PROCESS YOUR TRANSACTION AT THIS TIME... PLEASE GET A JOB.

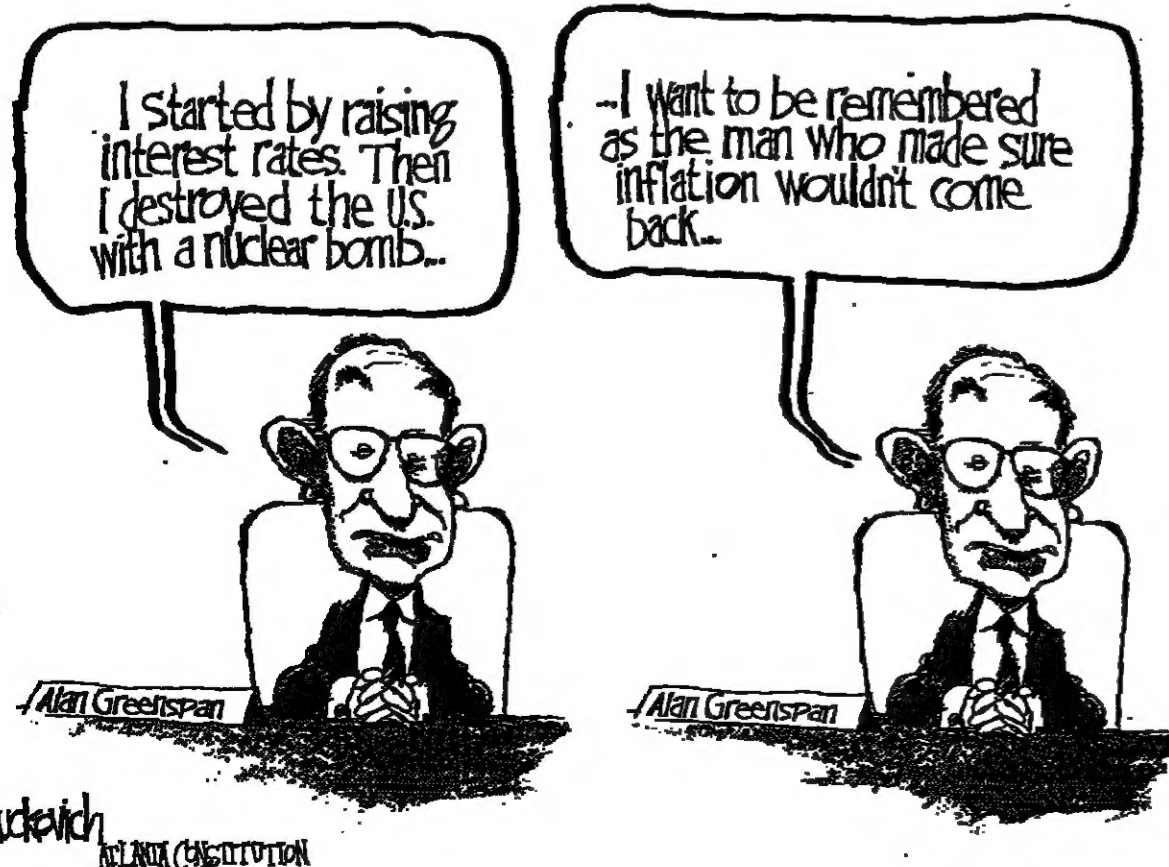
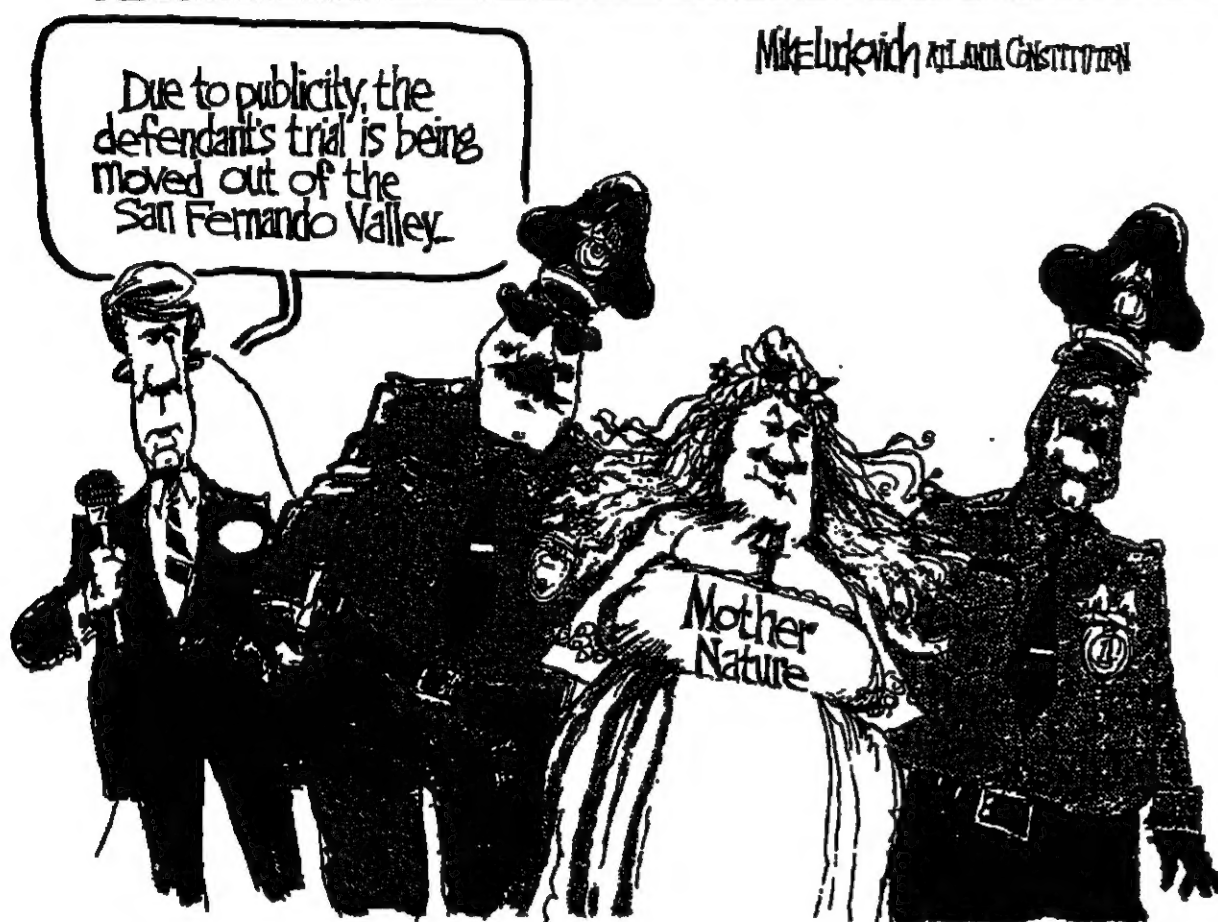
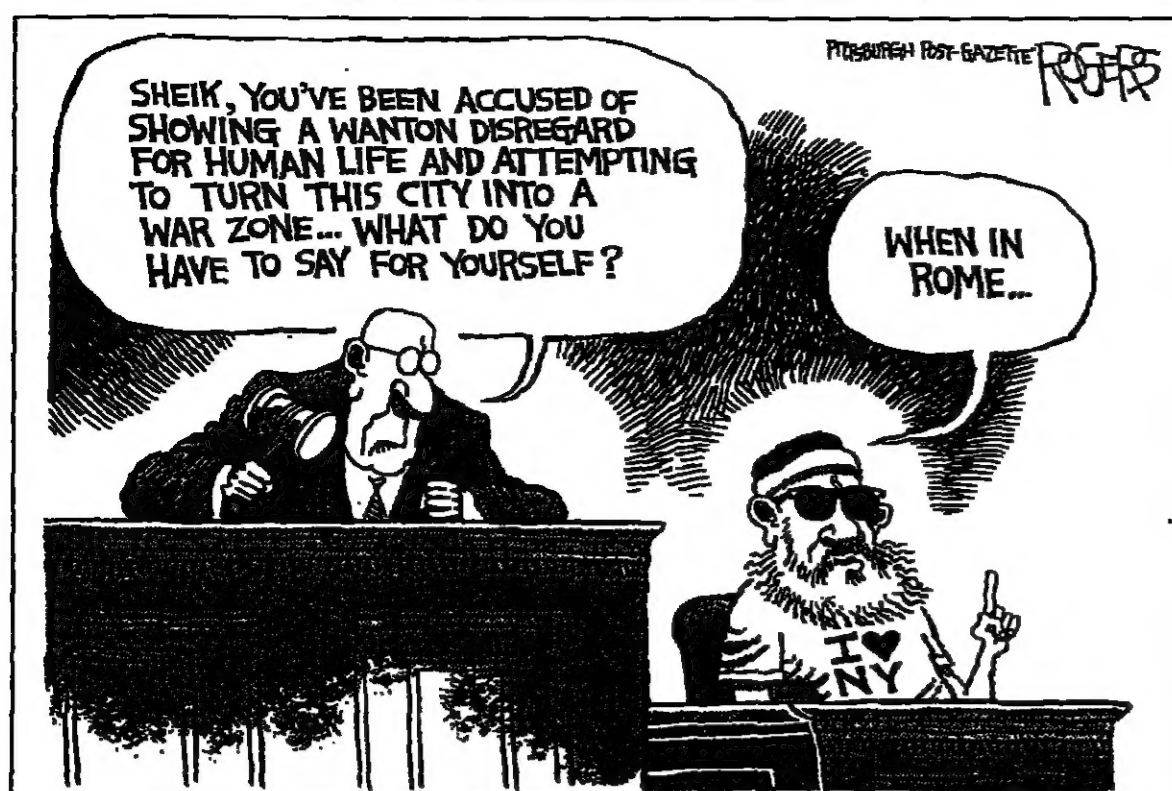


PERSPECTIVE WEEKLY

Editor
Guy Bernfeld

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Donella H. Meadows

The Global Citizen:

The New Budgeting

I recently came home from business in Europe, where I traveled on the slick new ICE trains, to find that Amtrak budget cuts are about to cancel the two daily passenger trains that connect my valley with the rest of the country.

The European rail network serves every city many times a day; it's on time to the minute; the trains are clean, comfortable, and complete with on-board telephones and tables upon which to rest your

But we should have more trains, not fewer. If we're going to cut government spending, let's do it rationally. There are rivers of waste in Washington. Why start with the dribble that goes to trains?

As other budget suggestions come out of the new Congress, one gets the idea that the agenda is not really budget-cutting at all.

The Public Broadcasting System is scheduled for an axing. Its government

The goal can't be jobs, when there are jobs in building railroads, in helping the poor, in public broadcasting, in teaching and vaccinating and cleaning up the environment. The only real goal I can see in the new budget agenda is a strong shift from the long-term good of the nation to the short-term good of the rich and powerful.

paperwork or computer. Professionals prefer to travel by rail, because they can work en route and arrive unjangled.

Our about-to-be-canceled Amtrak trains pull into White River Junction, Vermont, at 11 PM going south and 5 AM going north — when they're on time. Despite the inconvenient hours, 20,000 people get on or off at White River every year, and of course we're only one of many stops.

The nationwide 20% cut in Amtrak will save taxpayers \$200 million per year (75 cents for every man, woman, and child of us). It will cost 5,500 jobs and send who knows how many extra cars and buses onto the highways, which taxpayers subsidize, directly and indirectly, through federal, state, and local taxes, at the level of \$300 billion per year (\$1150 for each of us).

Trains pay off in many ways, as the European and Japanese know.

For example:
* An intercity passenger train is three times as energy efficient as commercial air transport and six times as efficient as a one-occupant car.

* Two railroad tracks can carry as many people as 16 highway lanes.

* For every ton of goods shipped by rail rather than truck, nitrogen oxide pollution is reduced by 67 percent; carbon monoxide, smog-causing organics, and particulates by 90 percent; and carbon dioxide by 88 percent.

* Japanese bullet trains have carried over 3 billion passengers without a fatal accident. That much travel on Japanese highways would have killed 2000 people.

* Carrying the same load at the same speed, trains make 25-50 percent less noise than road transport.

* Improving and electrifying the train service between Boston and New York could displace 50 flights per day and eliminate the need for a second Boston airport. The rail improvements would cost \$1.3 billion; the airport would cost \$5 to \$10 billion.

* Our federal government spends \$20 on highways for every \$1 it spends on rail transport. In Europe the ratio of car subsidy to rail subsidy is not 20 to 1, but 3 to 1.

I'm all for fixing inefficiencies in Amtrak to reduce cost without eliminating service.

funding at \$285 million per year (\$1.10 from each of us) is about half of what the Pentagon spends on military bands. It covers only 17% of the operating costs of the 1000 public radio and television stations in the nation. Why worry about this pittance? Why starve the only place in the wasteland of television where a kid can see Shakespeare or an opera, not to mention Sesame Street?

Foreign aid is high on Jesse Helms's hit list. Much of our foreign aid is indeed misspent, particularly the \$5.1 billion (\$19.61 from each of us) that goes to Egypt and Israel. But that is not the part of the budget that Helms wants to cut. He is targeting population and environment programs, agriculture programs, and aid to Africa, Russia, and Central Europe.

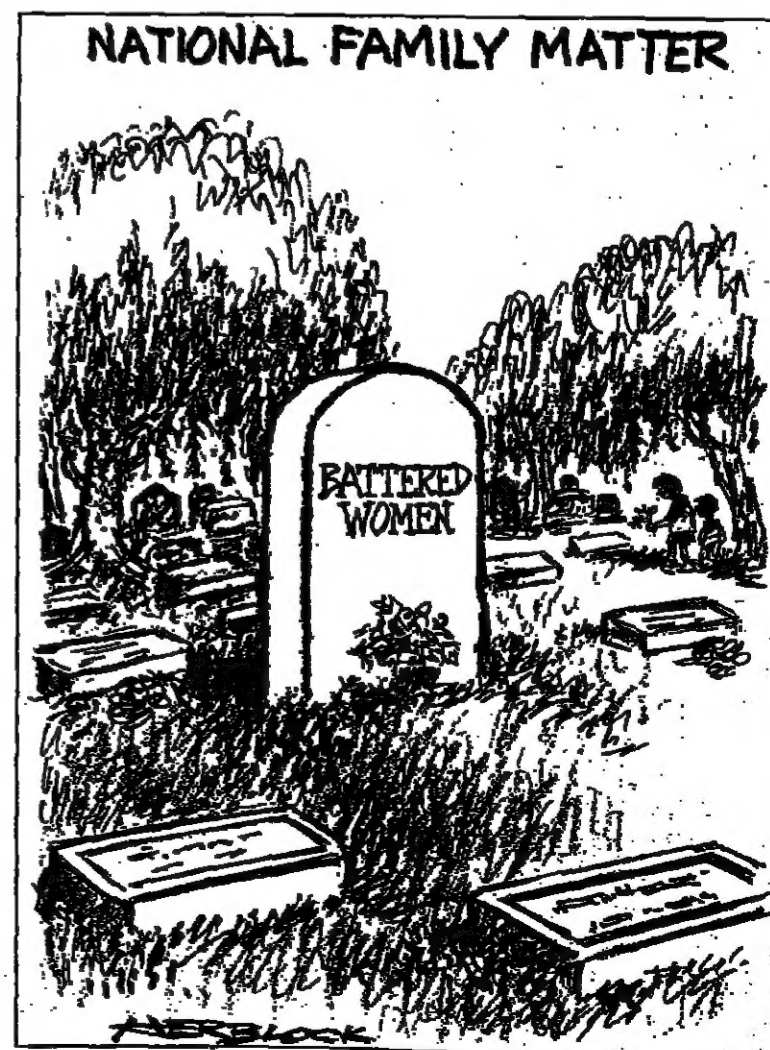
We now pay \$13.7 billion a year (\$52 from each of us) to help the rest of the world and \$275 billion (\$1050 apiece) to fight it. As a fraction of total GNP our aid ranks us 19th among the 20 richest nations, while our military budget is higher than that of the rest of the world put together.

Why cut foreign aid while raising defense, which we all know is laden with pork? Why slash the \$75 billion the government spends each year on the poor (\$288 from each of us), while ignoring the \$100 billion in handouts to the largest corporations (\$384 from each of us)? Why go after immunizations for children without saying a word about the \$100 billion collected by hospitals and doctors in Medicare scams?

The goal can't be cutting, when the fattest opportunities for cutting are bypassed. The goal can't be jobs, when there are jobs in building railroads, in helping the poor, in public broadcasting, in teaching and vaccinating and cleaning up the environment. The only real goal I can see in the new budget agenda is a strong shift from the long-term good of the nation to the short-term good of the rich and powerful.

That's an agenda driven by fear, greed, and resentment. It shows not a shred of compassion, community, or rationality — in fact its proponents mock those virtues. It's sad to see, and the saddest part is that ultimately it will hurt every one of us, even those who think they are benefiting.

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150-100-100

Molly Phinney

Rage Of Angels

Hay-lo! And welcome to *You Must Be An Angel*, with your heavenly host, Gabriel! On today's program: Cherubim Who Love Too Much, and the Sinners Who Hate Them! Plus: a special feature on how to get those testy brimstone spots out of diaphanous linen garments! But first, a word from our sponsor.

Stranger things have happened than a talk show by and for the angels behind all of us. Angels past and present would grace the program as guest stars: Kate Jackson, Hunter S. Thompson with a small contingent of Hell's Angels, and of course the spirit of Michael Landon, the star of *Highway to Heaven*, channeled through Ricardo Montalban, from his angelic *Heaven Help Us*.

Angels are everywhere. New Age catalogs sell statues, pictures, postcards and more by the legion. There are angel books, angel classes, angel accessories. Not to mention angel agents, who for a fee will help you make contact with yours (after all, the more expensive your religion is, the safer your soul). Just ask the 16th-century Catholic church. And for purists, the infamous two-dollar Angel on Your Shoulder pin: discreet on lapel, tie or notch-collar blouse.

But the angels for sale are not the angels of the Church. They require no travel, no great financial contribution, no kowtowing to men in dresses, no creedal alignment, no integrity and, ultimately, no faith. God is not an issue.

It's okay if you don't believe in God. Hey, whatever you're comfortable with. We have a commitment level for everybody.

The Nature of Business

All the markers of popular culture have affirmed angelology's rightful place in the spiritual domain: books, counselors and support groups have come out of the woodwork to guide the angelically challenged to a happier, more fulfilled pop-spiritual life.

Fallen from grace after 14 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list, Sophie Burnham's seminal *A Book of Angels* embodies everything trashy and commercial about the angel phenomenon. Nicely packaged with a lovely gold book jacket (suitable for framing), the book meanders through Burnham's own spiritual journey from nonbeliever and rationalist to angel aficionado, interspersed with angel minutiae. God is absent, except in a few choice quotes, set on the margins, from biblical and literary sources.

Typical of the New Faith, Burnham sets her wares of wisdom on the shelf with an opening disclaimer: "Strange things happen. I don't pretend to understand them."

Then she asks a number of questions she needs to answer but can't: "In writing this book," she wonders, "what is my responsibility to myself, to you, to God? I cannot, answer any of these questions."

Also typical of the New Faith, Burnham uses her work as a springboard to rehash a lot of irrelevant quasi-Freudian dynamics between her and her mother, now passed away. The reader finds out more about Burnham than we would ever need to know: about her rational but trusting husband, her perpetually dissatisfied and exacting mother, her successful lawyer father who glamorously and frequently expounded before the Supreme Court and family alike.

Burnham is not alone. Whining masquerading as faith or insight characterizes the personal religion of the '90s. In the absence of a deity, authors and spiritual advisors often substitute

their children. Her best friend is a nun and Chessman spends time at the Abbey of Regina Laudis, a Benedictine community in Bethlehem (Connecticut).

"I long to believe in God. I think I do believe in God in the sense of something divine inside people: an Emersonian sense of the potential for goodness, for something extraordinary and significant that often gets obscured by the immediate culture around a child as it grows up. The limitations of people's imagination, economic circumstances all contribute," Chessman said.

Finding Your Angel

Melinda and Bruce Sharpe lead workshops in angel-seeking, drumming, and meditation. On a chilly night in late

the equation when having a deity around makes us uncomfortable. It means looking at culture through faith, and not at faith through culture, I said.

The Sharpes nodded sagely. They defended angelology as not just another New Age phenomenon, and moved on to Danielle, Spontaneity, from Vermont.

Others are practicing the angel arts as well. Trudy Griswold first met her angels five years ago. Always involved in business ventures of one sort or another, she considered herself left-brain, rational, certainly not the type to be called by the messengers of God.

"They awakened me one Saturday morning. I had been feeling very cozy and comfortable, and all of a sudden

way of encompassing and connecting with God."

Griswold and Chessman both understand the angel phenomenon as a part of the renaissance in personal religion that has come on the heels of the ultimately unsatisfying Decade of Greed. The real culprits in the commodification of religion are not the individual proponents of angel faith who, for the most part, seem to earnestly believe in them. The enemy of faith, rather, is the commercial powers that establish a need and then supply it with some new or improved product so we can buy something else to fill that aching gap where our soul should be.

Where has God gone wrong?

God as creator or redeemer or sanctifier has become irrelevant to popular culture. Who needs God? We told God to go away, and He did. When we realize some time later that, well, maybe we wouldn't mind a little spirituality to get us through the holidays, the mid-life crisis, the loneliness of life in the latter twentieth-century, God is too far away to reach.

"Judging from the little I've read and heard about the angel movement, it seems as if what's attractive to people is their accessibility," Chessman said. "Whereas God is something really other. People who talk about angels cannot talk very easily about God: the Otherness frightens people. Initially, angels would be the form [that mediated] God. You could not look directly at God's brilliance; it was safer to see the angels. And today, it's much safer to refer to angels than to God."

People once looked to angels as a vertical connection to the transcendence of God. Today, angels are peers, best friends, companions.

In *Democracy in America* a century and a half ago, Alexis de Toqueville wrote eloquently about the struggle Americans had between autonomy and piety. We have never had confidence in authority, not since the days of the British crown, unless it belongs to us. No institution is to be trusted; implicitly personal religion is, therefore, the only safe one.

By limiting our religious experience because of our need to retain self-authority, we risk denying ourselves the ecstasy of losing ourselves to the full range of the divine. When it comes down to it, we don't and can't know the limitations of our ability to reason about, imagine or dismiss the court of the divine. How do we know what lies outside the boundaries of even the greatest of our minds, which we take so much pride in? We wonder, while the angels laugh.

©1995 New Haven Advocate

Kim S. Hirsh

Funny Feminists

Stand-up comedian Kate Clinton remembers the time when a feminist comedian was treated like a circus oddity. When Clinton first started calling herself a "feminist humorist" about a decade ago, she was deluged with requests for interviews. A feminist who makes people laugh for a living?

"It was like the most unbelievable oxymoron. Everybody said, 'Whoa, let's talk to this babe,'" says Clinton, who has since shortened her moniker down to "humorist."

But now many women like Clinton — who's popular on the comedy circuit and has starred in her own one-woman show, "Out is In" — have made it to centerstage.

From headliners such as Brett Butler, whose television series, "Grace Under Fire," was the third most popular show on T.V. last fall, to grassroots humorists such as Deborah Werksman, who produces a women's humor magazine out of her home in Bridgeport, Connecticut, feminists — the folks nobody thinks can take a joke — are having the last laugh.

Aside from Butler, other feminist comics with their own television shows include Ellen Degeneres, whose show "Ellen" on ABC features Degeneres as a single, 30-something Los Angeles coffeehouse owner whose offbeat behavior and humorous musings keep her on the cutting edge. On her show, "All American Girl," Margaret Cho highlights the cultural conflicts between Cho and her traditional Korean family.

Women's humor is on the rise now because "a lot of women are feeling that we want to celebrate the progress we've made in the last 20 years and enjoy it," says Werksman. "There's a lot of outspokenness and a higher comfort level in calling things what they are. We can now criticize what still hasn't come a long way and celebrate what has," she adds.

So what exactly is feminist humor? "It's humor that basically challenges the status quo," summed up Roz Warren, a self-described "happily married radical feminist mom" who is the editor of the ground-breaking series of women's humor books, including "Women's Glib: A Collection of Women's Humor" published by Crossing Press.

"For instance, rather than making fun of women not keeping diets and being fat and not attractive to men, feminist humor makes fun of the system that makes women care about that so much," says Warren, of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. She says she decided to publish women's humor writing and cartoons when she noticed women's voices were virtually absent in standard humor collections.

She's done her best to fill that void, with six women's humor and cartoon books so far. Her latest collection, "The Best Contemporary Women's Humor," includes ruminations such as "How Can I Get Morning Sickness When I Don't Get Up Till Noon?", a series of "Night of the Living Bra" cartoons, and topics such as "Mr. Right and Mr. Coffee" and "Job Hell."

For comedians like Cho, the very nature of what they do is a feminist statement. As a second-generation Korean-American, Cho says she was raised to believe women are supposed to be quiet and subdued — not to stand up on stage and tell sex jokes to strangers.

"The job that I do is opposed to all the values that have been instilled in me. It's really an exhilarating thing," Cho said in a phone interview. She likes to debunk the Geisha myth in her act. "Men always look at me and think I'm like a China doll who's going to walk over their backs," she says. "I say, 'Look, I'm not going to walk on your back unless there's something on the other side that I want.'"

As with mainstream humor, subjects that can evoke tears or anger are often used to make people laugh instead. Butler, who has appeared on dozens of



television comedy shows, has used her experience as a battered wife in her stand-up act.

In "Grace Under Fire" she plays a divorced mother of three who works in an oil refinery and draws upon her personal strength, the support of friends, and an ever-present wit to survive.

Feminist humor often reflects women's tendency to "laugh upwards at those who have power and misappropriate it" rather than "downward (at humor) that goes after its victim," said Regina Barreca, an English professor at the University of Connecticut and author of a book on women's humor called "They Used to Call Me Snow White... But I Drifted," and "Perfect Husbands (And Other Fairy Tales)."

In her books, she also analyzes humor that turns many women off. In general, she says, women hate The Three Stooges. "That turned out to be the biggest political statement of my book," says Barreca. "I thought everybody knew women don't like eye-poking, butt-slapping humor."

"Hysteria," Werksman's almost two-year-old feminist humor quarterly, is

aimed at getting women to laugh at their lives without trivializing themselves or focusing on how they can be more appealing to men.

"We start from the assumption that women are intelligent, capable, competent and whole...as opposed to incomplete without a man," Werksman says. "Our material presents a really positive view of women, and it doesn't make apologies for that."

Werksman got an introduction to the humor business when she and her husband, Jeffrey Yoder, started producing the "Quayle Quarterly," a magazine that kept tabs on the former vice president's foibles.

Even though the White House labeled the quarterly "high school humor," when she and Yoder were invited on Phil Donahue's talk show a few years ago, the administration sent a large entourage to rebut them, including Quayle's press secretary and Roger Ailes, at the time President Bush's media consultant, she says.

"It was then that I began to realize what a powerful weapon humor is." So when the departure of Quayle put an end to the "Quarterly," Werksman decided to put out a magazine devoted to women's humor — something she found sorely lacking in the feminist press.

The magazine includes a regular comical feature on menstruation and articles with titles such as "How to Use Computer Commands When You've Been Raised to Be Submissive."

One article, "Get in Touch With Your Inner Bitch," in which writer Elizabeth Hiltz heralds an end to "Toxic Niceness," became a topic of talk show hosts throughout the country. Rush Limbaugh

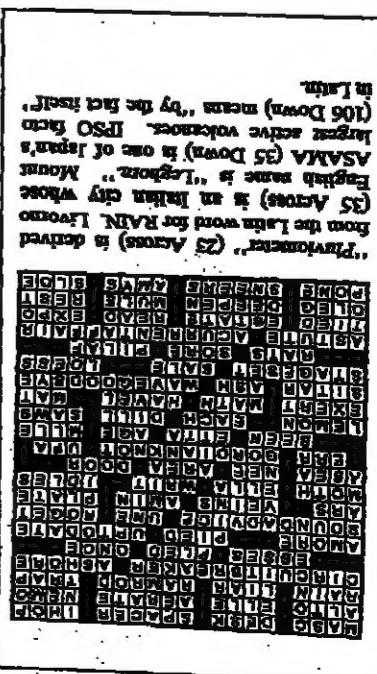
rallied against "The Inner Bitch" for weeks on his show. (Needless to say, he didn't get it.) Hiltz has since expanded the piece into a book.

Humor can also be a vehicle for social change. Clinton, who lives in Provincetown, Mass., was one of the first comics to come out as a lesbian. She manages to make topics such as inequities in medical research funny. Clinton says the study claiming that homosexuality could be predicted by the hypothalamus left out data on women because "the researcher said he was unable to locate any lesbian brains." "I've been to that bar, too," she quips.

Maintaining a feminist perspective may not always help a humorist's popularity. Nicole Hollander of Chicago, creator of the syndicated comic strip "Sylvia," says that her character's feminist bent and wry comments about the status of women have probably limited the strip's sales to newspapers.

"In some parts of the country, the work I do is not funny and not interesting, and they don't get it," Hollander said. But she says she just has to accept that. "This is what I'm interested in. There's not much point in doing a strip about something else."

©1995 Women's Feature Service



This tropical dance packs a pretty big wallop

Meteorologists have found that El Nino serves as a kind of 'pacemaker' for planet-wide climate cycles from one decade to the next, **Kathy Sawyer writes**

THE climate-boggling condition known as El Nino is born of a "dance" between the Pacific Ocean and the tropical wind, scientists now understand.

In much the same way that a human conversation can change mood without either partner knowing exactly who was responsible, small perturbations in water temperature and wind speed amplify each other until, together, they can change the world.

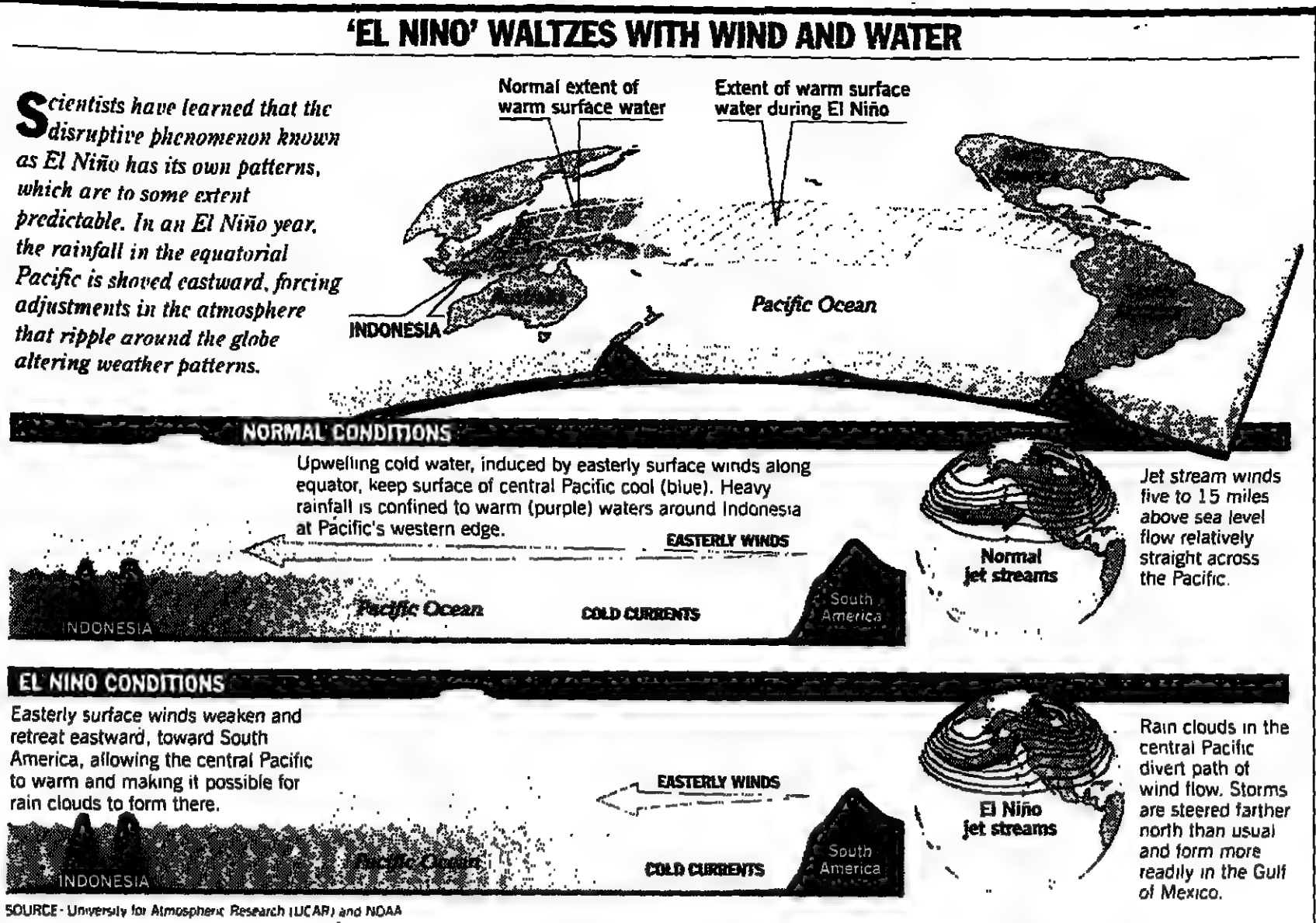
Meteorologists are learning to predict El Nino conditions with increasing - though still rudimentary - skill. And they want to share such predictions with people around the world who can use them to avert disaster.

Researchers have only recently comprehended what a powerful wallop this tropical flirtation of air and water delivers. An El Nino changes weather patterns not only in its immediate neighborhood in the Pacific basin, but also around the globe.

Meteorologists used to think each episode affected weather patterns for only a season or two, but recent analyses suggest El Nino serves as a kind of "pacemaker" for planet-wide climate cycles from one decade to the next.

In the past 40 years, there is evidence that nine El Ninos of varying strength have affected the South American coast. For the winter of 1994-95, meteorologists predict a mild El Nino effect, which translates into specific warnings: Farmers in Zimbabwe, for example, could plan for a drought and a below-average corn harvest. The southern United States should brace for another season of above-average rain.

Records indicate that the El Nino phenomenon has persisted over the centuries, arriving about every three to



Records indicate that the El Nino phenomenon arrives about every three to seven years and lasts from 12 to 18 months. (Richard Forno/The Washington Post)

seven years and lasting from 12 to 18 months. Scientists have seen its signature in coral formations 40,000 years old. Its name, which is Spanish for "the child," was bestowed by Peruvian fishermen hundreds of years ago. To them, El Nino meant the arrival at Christmas-time of a warm ocean current that typically lingered for several months, reducing their catch.

But just what is El Nino? In simplest terms, scientists of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration describe it as an interplay of atmospheric pressures, sea surface temperatures and winds in the equatorial Pacific.

Early in this century, British scientist Sir Gilbert Walker detected a periodic seesaw effect in the barometric pressure of the atmosphere: When the pressure rose on the east side of the Pacific, it fell in the west, and vice versa.

He called this the Southern Oscillation. In "normal" conditions, Pacific winds blow vigorously from east to west. But when the seesaw tilted so that the pressure dropped in the eastern Pa-

cific, the easterly winds weakened. This effect often coincided with El Nino conditions.

In 1969, Norwegian meteorologist Jacob Bjerknes provided another key insight: Major shifts in weather patterns do not occur only in the ocean or only in the atmosphere, but depend on both. This led scientists to link El Nino's warm waters with Walker's Southern Oscillation as a single phenomenon with a single acronym: ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation).

In normal years, easterly winds carry

the warm surface waters of the Pacific westward, toward Indonesia, where the warm water accumulates. To the east - along the coasts of Peru and Ecuador and in a tongue that stretches westward along the equator - colder water, rich in nutrients, wells up from the depths to replace the warm water pushed away by the wind.

In an El Nino, when the easterly winds weaken, less cold water wells up to replenish nutrients near the surface, and warm surface water from the western Pacific moves back eastward. When

this backflow of warm water reaches the coast of South America, it is forced northward and southward, sweeping various species of fish with it.

In normal times, cool surface water keeps the air over the central Pacific chilled, and therefore too dense to rise high enough for water vapor to condense and form clouds. Rain is confined to the extreme western Pacific.

But as an El Nino is born, warm surface water heats the humid air in places where it is usually chilled. The warm air rises and forms clouds that produce heavy rain unusually far east, in the central Pacific.

As the atmosphere adjusts, barometric pressure falls over the central and eastern Pacific and rises farther west over Indonesia and Australia. This causes a further weakening of the easterly winds.

"The atmosphere and the ocean are performing a dance together, in which each mimics the action of the other and is stimulated by the action of the other," said J. Michael Hall, NOAA's director of global programs.

The shift of dense, tropical rain clouds eastward distorts patterns of air flow 8 to 24 km. above sea level, researchers say, much as rocks distort the flow of a stream. These ripples in the air flow, in turn, determine the positions of monsoons, storms and belts of strong winds aloft known as jet streams.

"When you mess with the patterns of tropical heating," Hall said, "you are in fact messing with the general circulation of the atmosphere at all latitudes."

These effects are most pronounced - and predictable - in the tropics. In more temperate climes, ENSO must compete with other influences. Among the effects that scientists have associated with ENSO events are: Increases in African droughts; floods in Peru, Ecuador, the eastern US and Southeast Asia; a decline in food for migrating wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest; ice storms on the US East Coast; the "500-year flood" on the Mississippi; fluctuations in the Zimbabwean corn crop; and a current outbreak of cholera in 10 countries.

The US government recently proposed that research scientists around the world collaborate with government decision-makers, economists, farmers, fishermen and others in affected communities to translate researchers' blossoming knowledge of El Nino into practical steps to minimize adverse effects of an ENSO event.

(The Washington Post)

He wasn't a revolutionary; he was just a success

THERE AND THEN
RAYA SHAPIRO

FAILURE was in store for David Ben-Gurion when he tried, shortly after the War of Independence, to forge a "nation of individuals" into a "society with a collective will."

Ben-Gurion's ideas were not revolutionary. He envisaged rule by majority through elected representatives, an electoral system which prevented fragmentation and reduced political blackmail.

Dr. Nathan Yanai of Haifa University examines Ben-Gurion's concept of citizenship in an essay in the fourth volume of *Iyumin B'kumot Yisrael* (Studies in Zionism, the Yishuv and the State of Israel), published recently by the Ben-Gurion Research Center and the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

History did not support Ben-Gurion's aspirations, and he was well aware of it.

"Jews failed to unite at the gravest hour of their history, on the eve of the destruction of the Second Temple... for the catastrophe could have been prevented," Ben-Gurion wrote to Menahem Ussishkin in 1936. It is true that Jews had achieved, in their dispersion, what others could not in similar circumstances: They had maintained their identity, even a certain degree of solidarity and public assistance.

Perhaps, Ben-Gurion theorized, it was also due to their striving for excellence and moral superiority. However, they were but "dust of men" - having no language, no territory, no will for collective existence. They were "a nation of isolated individuals."

Was the bad that burgeoned in the War of Independence hardly enough to ensure the nation's independent existence? Was the historical continuity of the nation solid? Perhaps it was, Ben-Gurion mused. But it required a change in the nation's attitudes.

The nation must fight two negative influences, Ben-Gurion argued. The first was the destructive attitude toward statehood, which in the past had spelled catastrophe. The second was the anti-statehood tradition of the Diaspora.

What was important for the nation, he said, was to break the cycle of Jewish history: disintegration, destruction, dispersion, conversion to foreign religions, and total annihilation. He believed the IDF could wield a major influence in this direction. He urged that the army be used for civilian tasks: agriculture, education of newcomers, and settlements.

According to Moshe Dayan, Yanai says, Ben-Gurion favored justice for the nation over justice for the individual, though he advised avoiding harm to the individual while building a nation.

There is no need for a constitution in our time, Ben-Gurion argued; it was not consistent with Jewish nature or history. A constitution was necessary in the 18th century when all regimes were totalitarian. Would the Israeli public agree that the High Court of Justice cancel a law of the Knesset, Ben-Gurion asked rhetorically, sensing a situation which in fact arose many years after his death.

IN THE pre-state era, the term "citizen" was associated with the political right. Labor attributed it to the rejection of social vision and a selfish assertion



Ben-Gurion: It was important for the nation to break the cycle of Jewish history. (JNF)

of the individual's economic interests.

Labor's answer was the Collectivist Movement - the pioneer who carries out social and national missions voluntarily.

Ben-Gurion extolled the role of the pioneer, but restricted his sphere of influence to tasks needed by the state. He clashed with the kibbutz movement over its insistence on being the sole leading influence in pioneering. For Ben-Gurion, a pioneer was anybody acting unselfishly for the state's benefit. History had imposed a number of missions on our generation: "We must accept these duties for a long time to come," Ben-Gurion maintained.

He denied Zionists who did not reside in Israel the right to interfere with the nation's policies. He granted Arab residents of Israel full electoral rights, but opposed the abolition of military government in areas heavily populated by Arabs.

Though he achieved a modus vivendi with the religious establishment, Ben-Gurion clearly stated that "the rabbinate draws its authority not from the *Shulhan Aruch* [the code of Jewish law] but from the laws of the Mandatory government that had been adopted by the Temporary Government of Israel... The rabbi acts within the law of the Knesset. It is the Knesset which will tell him how he should behave."

THE SAME volume of *Iyumin* contains a page from Ben-Gurion's diary for 1962 in which he reports on his visit with Martin Buber.

Buber had asked for the meeting to plead against the execution of Adolf Eichmann. Polish antisemitism was worse than German antisemitism, Buber argued. Moreover, the reaction of the world to Eichmann's execution might be calamitous.

Ben-Gurion was not impressed. He had never suffered from antisemitism, he asserted. In his home town, Jewish boys outnumbered the non-Jewish and invariably beat them in fights. The local worthies used to pay respects to Ben-Gurion's father. "I visited Poland in the aftermath of World War I, after 14 years in Palestine, and I was ashamed of the way the Jews behaved. I understood why *goyim* did not like them."

Ben-Gurion was not worried about the reaction by the Gentiles to Eichmann's execution. "I believe that our future depends on what we do, not on what the *goyim* say."

What parrots love: Constant company

HEADS 'N' TAILS
DYORA BEN SHAUL

THE larger parrot varieties are among the most complex and interesting creatures. There are many types of parrot but one of the most popular - and one of the seemingly most intelligent - is the African gray parrot known commonly as a "Jacko."

One of our readers has a 21-year-old African gray parrot. Since parrots enjoy long lives, this would be about the equivalent age for a human or perhaps even slightly younger.

The owner consistently refers to the parrot in the masculine gender.

For the last few years, while the reader's son was in the army, the parrot behaved normally. Then the son came home.

From that point, the parrot's behavior changed. When it is put into its cage at night it immediately tears all the papers on the floor into tiny pieces and piles them up in the cage.

The parrot is happiest when sitting on the son's shoulder and even tries to "feed" him by putting regurgitated food into his ear.

Some friends have suggested that this is a case of jealousy, and the woman wonders if this might be true.

Probably the most telling clue is that the parrot has chosen to "feed" the son in this peculiar way.

This is a result of the enormous species confusion suffered by a bird like this whose only company is human. The parrot is treating the son of the family as if he were a baby bird.

The paper tearing is also most likely an attempt to make a nest for the "baby."

Nothing here gives positive proof of the sex of the bird, since both parrot-parents are nest-makers and nurturers of the young.

This parrot was most likely caught when very young, possibly even unfledged, and was totally imprinted on humans. This makes it easily handled and usually a good talker but it also distorts its basic perceptions.

Situations like this show the terrible perversion we inflict on such a bird by denying it company of its own species and by thwarting all its natural instincts.

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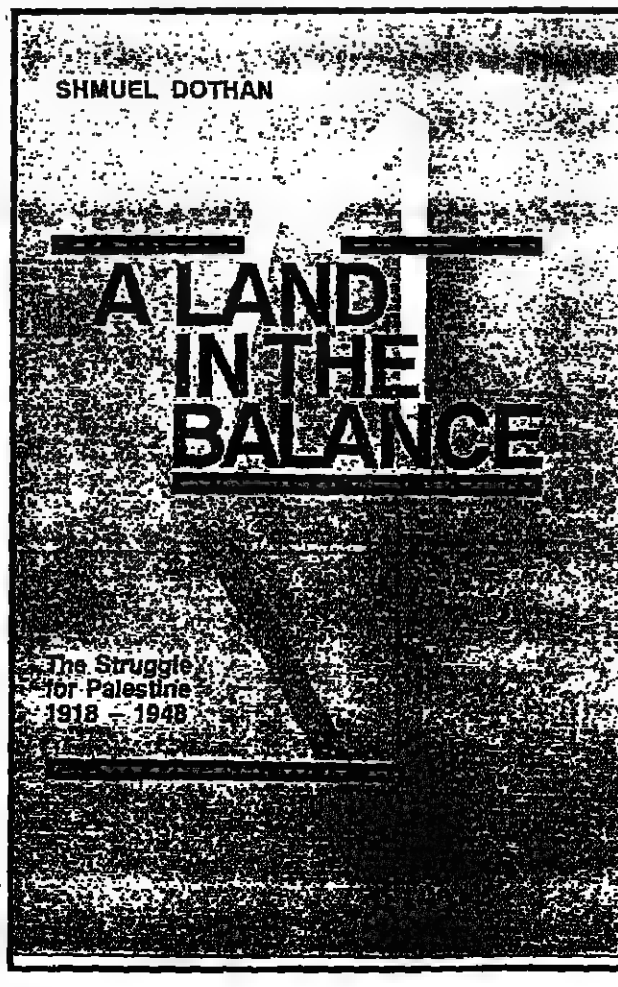
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Major League coaches to run clinic here

JOE HOFFMAN

FORMER Major League baseball stars Jim Lefebvre and Pat Dobson are coming here next week to run a coaching clinic.

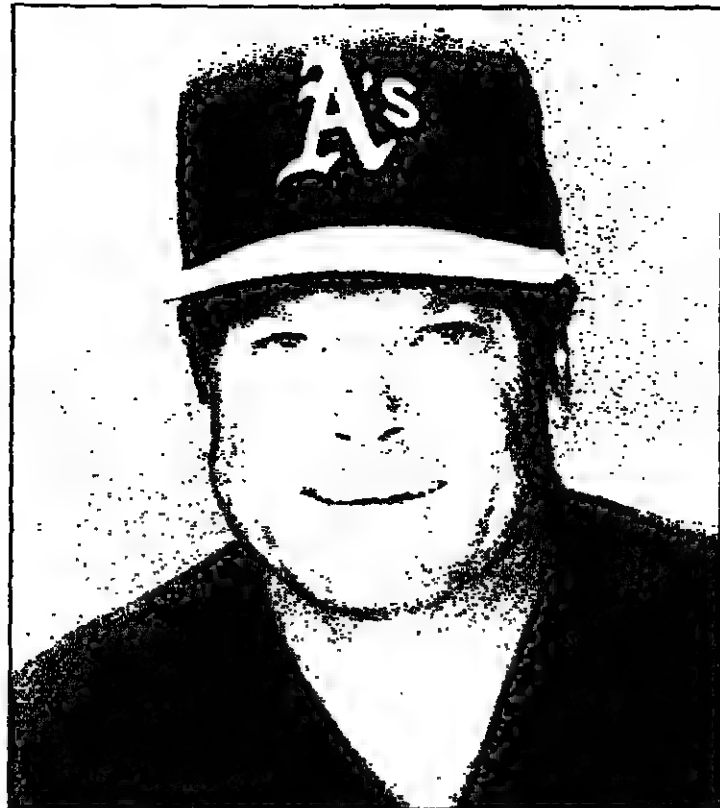
Lefebvre, currently third base and hitting coach of the Oakland Athletics, and Dobson, a scout for the Colorado Rockies, will be joined by California Angels outfield instructor Sam Suppizio to conduct an Israel Association of Baseball clinic at Moshav Zofit on January 26-28 to train coaches for this country's soon-to-sprout baseball teams.

"Next month, Israel is likely to be invited to join CIBA (Confederation of European Amateur Baseball)," says IAB secretary Sam Peller. "This will entitle us to field three youth teams in European play this summer."

The big league trio, who are sponsored by Major League Baseball International, will come here after having conducted similar clinics in Madrid, Pamplona and Frankfurt.

Lefebvre, 53, has enjoyed a big league career which stretches back to 1965 when he broke in with the Los Angeles Dodgers as a second baseman.

An eight-year veteran with the Dodgers, the switch-hitting second baseman had a career batting average of .251. Following his Major League days, where he was primarily a second- and third



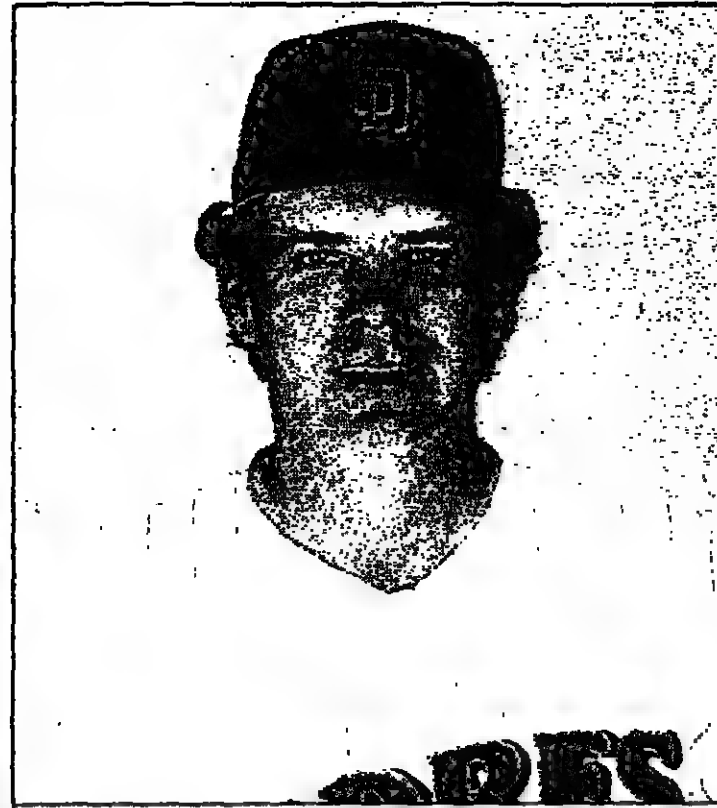
COACHING THE COACHES - Jim Lefebvre (l) and Pat Dobson bring big-league savvy to a three-day coaching clinic.

baseballer, he went to Japan for four years with the Lotte Orions. He also coached for that organization.

The California native returned to the US where he coached in the minors until being called up to Tony La Russa's Athletics for his first stint as the third base and hitting coach in 1987-88.

From there he went on to a successful managerial career at the helm of the Seattle Mariners (1989-91) and the Chicago Cubs (1992-93).

Lefebvre is the co-founder of Athletics for Youth, which helps to stem drug abuse by the young. He is also the co-author, together with his father Ben, of *The Mak-*



ing of a Hitter.

Dobson came up to the big leagues in 1967 as a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers. Playing for San Diego, Baltimore, Atlanta, the Yankees and Cleveland, the right-hander compiled a 122-129 lifetime mark over an 11-year period.

His best year was 1971 when he

posted a 20-8 mark, one of four 20-game winners on the Orioles' championship club.

After his playing days, Dobson, 52, was a pitching coach for San Diego, Milwaukee and Kansas City.

For further information, telephone 09-983819, 09-981191 or 03-5255776.

New-look Agassi set for Aussie Open debut

MELBOURNE (AP) - Brooke Shields' hairdresser wielded the scissors, though the way it turned out an Australian sheep-shearer might have served just as well.

After one of the most famous haircuts since Elvis joined the Army, Andre Agassi opens his assault on the No. 1 ranking in tennis. There's a new look and a new way of looking at the game, but not a trace of regret over his lost locks.

The clipping came in New York a few days before Christmas, girlfriend Shields at his side, along with boyfriend chum Perry Rogers, as the curls came tumbling down.

Three weeks later, as Agassi awaits his debut in the Australian Open starting tomorrow, his scalp is still barely covered with dark fuzz and a trim tuft near the front.

He has a matching goatee and mustache, with sideburns spreading down to the lobes of his ears, each of which now sport big, floppy earrings.

It is the look of a pirate, or perhaps a rakish French painter of the 1920s, sans black beret. In no way does it match the image on the giant billboard near the Australian Open, Agassi's ponytail flying as he flails at the ball. A touchup is needed with a can of White-Out.

"I really quite honestly got tired of long hair," Agassi said. "So I decided over the summer that after the year's over and done with, I'm going to cut my hair off."

Agassi, 24, hasn't decided whether he'll keep his hair short or let it grow back, though he quipped that his new style may make him "two-hundredths of a second faster" on court.

More than speed, he'll need all the stamina he can muster to wrest the title away from defending champion and No. 1 Pete Sampras. Agassi is No. 2, and a victory at the Australian would give him a chance to claim the top ranking for the first time in his career this spring.

"I suggest he wears a hat," Sampras joked, offering Agassi a friendly tip about dealing with the fierce sun. "This court is good for him because it's a pretty high-bouncing court. It really reacts to spin, and he plays with quite a bit of topspin. He can play on anything, really."

Agassi looked sharp in an exhibition victory over two-time champion Jim Courier a few days ago, only his second match ever on the type of rubberized court - Rebound Ace - that is used in the Australian. In his first exhibition match, still jet-lagged the day after arriving and thrown off by the glaring twilight, he got blown out in straight sets by Australian Patrick Rafter.

One possible rival in the semifinals, No. 3 Boris Becker, may be less of a threat after slightly straining a knee Friday, which caused him to pull out of a week-end exhibition match.

The women's draw, missing No. 1 Steffi Graf, shapes up as a gimme for No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who would take over the top spot by winning the title. Her biggest threats are Mary Pierce, Gabriela Sabatini and Jana Novotna.

Agassi always skipped the Australian, he said, because he wanted to spend December and January with his family and friends, "to balance my life" and not think about tennis. But by passing up a Grand Slam tournament each year, he virtually gave up any chance of reaching No. 1. It was a sign of immaturity and a lack of commitment to the game. This time, Gilbert began pushing Agassi to play the Australian last fall, "even before I got out of the tunnel at the US Open."

"Now that I've gotten older, it doesn't take me two weeks to relax," Agassi said. "Plus the importance of tennis is growing on me. It's not just being No. 1. It has to do with wanting to be the best player in the world every time you step on the court. That's what it boils down to."

Schmidt: Let Rose in Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Baseball's latest Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt urged that the doors to the shrine be opened for Pete Rose.

"I think it would be good for baseball to put Pete Rose in the Hall of Fame," Schmidt said of the all-time hits leader, his teammate for three seasons in the Philadelphia Phillies infield starting in 1979.

"His exile has gone on long enough," Schmidt said at a news conference on Tuesday. "Personality-wise and lifestyle-wise, he has corrected the problems that he was accused of."

And Schmidt contended that Rose had been unfairly singled out for his indiscretions - allegations that he gambled on games while he was the Cincinnati Reds' manager, which got him banned from baseball.

"The thing about the Hall of Fame is that there are not 220 guys in there with perfect personalities or lifestyles," Schmidt said.

The slugging third baseman, a nearly unanimous selection to the Hall of Fame last week in his first year of eligibility after an 18-year career, said Rose made him a better player.

"He would walk up to me and say you're the best player I've ever played with," Schmidt said of Rose.

"That vote of confidence was like shooting me with adrenaline."

Rose was the sparkplug for the Phillies' 1980 World Series victory, the only one in the team's history - and Schmidt's.

Before Philadelphia, Rose was a main cog in the Cincinnati "Big Red Machine" championship teams of the mid 1970s, the league's preeminent switch-hitter and the perfect lead-off hitter to set the table for sluggers Johnny Bench and Tony Perez.

Steelers-Chargers: No-nonsense Cowboys-49ers: Talkin' trash

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Cowher Power and Ross Force. That's precisely what the Pittsburgh Steelers and San Diego Chargers want to present to the nation today.

Both teams are that strange of American Football Conference animals: Hard-nosed, no-nonsense, here it comes, see if you can stop it this time.

The Steelers led the NFL in rushing, using a three-man backfield of Barry Foster (851 yards), rookie Bam Morris (836) and fullback John L. Williams (317). They throw if they have to, but make no secret that Cowher Power means keeping it on the ground and daring defenses to stop them.

"That's our style," coach Bill Cowher said. "We don't make any secret of it."

The Chargers will air it out a bit more - they threw 522 times this season, 59 more passes than Pittsburgh attempted. But the force for coach Bobby Ross comes from tailback Natrone Means, operating behind an offensive line whose lightest starter is center Courtney Hall at 281 pounds (127 kg).

Although Means was, by far, the most productive runner this season with 1,350 yards and another 139 in last Sunday's victory over Miami, that doesn't give San Diego any edge on the ground. Pittsburgh's defense yielded just 90.8 yards rushing a game and kept Means from deciding their regular-season game. They surrendered his average of 85 yards in a 37-34 loss to the Chargers in the season finale, but weren't overrun the way Miami was.

The Steelers firmly believe they have the edge with three dependable runners, while

Means' backups are Ronnie Harmon, almost exclusively a receiver out of the backfield, and Eric Blumery.

The Chargers are well aware of the depth Pittsburgh's backfield presents. They don't seem worried.

Means, in fact, claims he gets more dangerous late in a game, when defenders are losing steam and he's still bringing the same rolling thunder.

"When it comes time to make a big play, I want to be the one to make it," he said. "I want to be the one the coaches go to. When we need to run time off the clock, I feel that's my time to take my game up another level. There's something about crunch time. That's when the real players step up."

NFC: Cowboys-49ers

Michael Irvin guarantees a win. James Washington says the Dallas Cowboys will hit Steve Young as hard as they hit a running back.

"That's the sign of an insecure team," says William Floyd, the 49ers' rookie fullback, who played at Florida State University, where trash talk is an art form.

The give and take preceding this third straight National Football Conference title game between Dallas and San Francisco reflects as much the change in the 49ers as it does in the Cowboys, who won 30-20 and 38-21 the last two years before going on to beat Buffalo in the Super Bowl.

Dallas has always had a certain flair. Call it the Miami approach brought by Jimmy Johnson and reflected in the number of Cowboys he had from the universities of Miami and Florida, who thrive on playing "in your face" football. Six players from those two schools still remain on Barry

Switzer's Cowboys.

San Francisco, on the other hand, has always reflected the laid-back atmosphere of the Bay Area. You could say that it was Joe "Cool" Montana, who made it clear that flamboyance wasn't part of the 49ers tradition.

That's different now, particularly since San Francisco has four guys from Florida State to counter the Miami-Florida bent of the Cowboys.

So when Steve Young, Montana's successor, was decked in the end zone by Chicago's Shaun Gayle in San Francisco's 44-15 win over Chicago last Saturday, the entire offense came to his rescue, led by Jerry Rice, the epitome of 49ers cool.

And Floyd and Ricky Watters, chewed out earlier in the year by coach George Seifert after post-TD end zone demonstrations, are now free to do their thing.

Also credit the arrival of Deion Sanders this season who brought overwhelming talent.

But this week, it's been Dallas that's been doing the talking. Even before the Cowboys won last week, Irvin was predicting they'd become the first to win three straight Super Bowls.

And Washington, who could easily have been the Most Valuable Player in last year's Super Bowl, took note that Young ran for 60 yards in the 49ers' 21-14 regular-season win at Candlestick, most of it on bootlegs.

"The last time we treated him like a quarterback," Washington said. "This time we'll treat him like a running back. If he doesn't slide when he's supposed to, he's going to get connected."

"If you're gonna talk the talk, you gotta walk the walk," Floyd said. "They're scared. It's us who are gonna walk the walk."

Hurting Cowboys over hungry 49ers

PREDICTION

ELIOT ZIMELMAN

gold the home field advantage for what is becoming an annual war between pro football's two best franchises.

In addition to the record-breaking Young, the 49ers tout possibly the best wide receiver in history in Jerry Rice, a solid, if not spectacular backfield led by Ricky Watters, and a vastly improved defense featuring Deion Sanders and Ken Norton Jr., who jumped ship from Dallas last year for wetter, if not greener pastures.

The 49ers are healthy and hungry, and appear ready for today's challenge.

The Cowboys, on the other hand, are hurting. Star running back Emmitt Smith is doubtful with a hamstring injury, and even if he shows up, he can't be expected to deliver the same goods he has in the past. Quarterback Troy Aikman also has had his share of hard knocks this year, including another concussion.

Sounds like a 49ers victory?

Wrong! I'm going with the tradition (at least of the past two years), and taking the Cowboys 28-24 in what will be known as one of the more memorable championship games.

Now in the other conference, where the major question of the '90s has been how many consecutive Super Bowls can the Bills lose? (and I'm even an Upstate New Yorker) we've got Pittsburgh Steel Curtain II versus a charged-up San Diego team. Everyone likes the Steelers, who have a chance to return to the Super Bowl after a long drought.

The offense is good, especially when running back Barry Foster is healthy, and the defense is awesome, led by the best cornerback in the game, Ron Woodson.

As for the Chargers, any team led by Stan Humphries is suspect in my book, even if they have defensive standouts Junior Seau and Leslie O'Neal.

Steelers 30, Chargers 13 in a breeze. A frigid, Pittsburgh winter breeze.

Makes for a pretty good Super Bowl, wouldn't you say?

'Rookie of the Year' Smashnova getting in gear Down Under

HEATHER CHAIT

AT last year's Australian Open, she was an unknown, the first Israeli ever to make the main draw.

This year, Anna Smashnova is ranked 48 in the world and as a pre-Open bonus, was named "1994 Rookie of the Year" this week by *Tennis Magazine*, the world's leading tennis publication.

"This will give Anna a few psychological points against the other players," said her coach David Cody, adding, "but she's never really confident, which is normal." Eighteen-year-old Smashnova is presently in Melbourne preparing for this week's Open with her supervisor, Simon Denby, an ex-Israeli now living there.

Smashnova's dramatic rise in the Women's Tennis Association rankings from 139 to year-end 48 led to her being named female rookie alongside Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the male recipient.

Smashnova's 1994 triumphs included a spate of Grand Slam victories and a flawless first-round record in Grand Slam tournaments. She made the headlines at the French Open in April by defeating the fifth seed Czech Jana Novotna in the first round, losing to America's Sherry Stafford in the second.

At the US Open in August, she was again responsible for dismissing a seeded player, this time 13th seed Lori McNeil of the US.

Smashnova eventually reached the third round at Flushing Meadows.

In the Australian Open and at Wimbledon, Smashnova also won her first round matches.

Cody rationalizes her Grand Slam successes as a matter of luck but says, "The harder you work, the luckier you get." For the last two months since she lost to Gigi Fernandez in Brighton, Smashnova has been concentrating on her studies at the American School in Kfar Shmaryahu and practicing intensively with Cody.

"We've been focusing on her serve and on playing more aggressively," he says, "she's been working very hard but there's lots more to do."

In other news, a delegation of 14 Israelis leaves this week on a two-week goodwill mission to India to reciprocate last year's visit by members of the International Lawn Tennis Club of India.

Leading the team will be Ian Froman, President of the Israel Tennis Centers and a past Israel Davis Cup player.

Others in the friendship-fostering contingent are Harold Janikowicz, Jack Saul, Oded Shay, Amiram Gertler, Batsheva Mandel and Janine Strauss who will play in three matches.

Barkley plans to run for Governor of Alabama

NEW YORK (AP) - Charles Barkley says he's a better man since a 1991 basketball game in which he accidentally spat in a little girl's face.

After all, his behavior has to improve if he wants to become this country's first black Republican governor. He plans to run for office in Alabama in 1998.

The Phoenix Suns player says in the February issue of *Vanity Fair* magazine the goal is not far-fetched.

"I think if you're good from the beginning, it starts your growth, your drive," he said. "Out of everything I've accomplished - everything, - I still think the most

important thing ever was proving everybody wrong about me. God gave me a special gift, but I have taken it a long way."

Barkley, the NBA's most valuable player in 1993, is playing what he says will be his last season. He is also taking full responsibility for the spitting incident in a road game with the New Jersey Nets. Barkley was aiming at a heckler but hit the girl instead.

"What does that say about me that I let a basketball game - a game - get to me so much that I want to spit on any other human being?" he said. "It was my fault... After that I started to be a better person."

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TODAY:

CHANNEL 5
12:30 Bodies in motion 14:30 Volleyball 15:30 Rugby 16:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 Spanish league soccer 17:50 Live Premier League soccer: Newcastle v Manchester United 20:00 Bushido 20:30 College basketball: Connecticut v Pittsburgh 22:00 Premier League soccer: Newcastle v Manchester United 23:30 NFL playoff (San Diego Chargers v Pittsburgh Steelers followed by Dallas Cowboys v San Francisco 49ers on two-hour tape delay)

EUROSPORT
9:30 Motor racing 10:00 Ski jumping 11:00 Live men's alpine skiing 12:00 Live ski jumping 12:45 Women's alpine skiing 13:45 Live men's alpine skiing 15:00 Live ski jumping 16:00 Alpine skiing 17:00 Men's alpine skiing 18:00 Ski jumping 19:00 Cross country skiing 20:00 Wrestling 21:00 Boxing 22:30 Motor racing 23:30 Alpine skiing 00:00 Ski jumping 1:00 Boxing 2:00 Motor racing

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 Buckler Challenge basketball 7:00 Live Taipei Open badminton 11:00 International sports magazine 12:30 Asian soccer show 13:30 WWF 14:30 Tennis 15:00 Cross country 15:30 Sailing 16:00 Motor racing 17:00 Cricket 18:30 Taipei Open badminton 23:00 Buckler Challenge basketball 00:00 Tennis 00:30 International sports magazine

MONDAY JANUARY 16

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 NFL playoff (repeat) 18:00 NFL playoff 18:00 College basketball: Connecticut v Pittsburgh 19:30 Israeli basketball roundup 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Live Israeli basketball: Maccabi Pithon Lezion v Hapoel Holon 22:15 Premier League 23:15 Israeli basketball roundup 23:45 NFL playoff 00:45 Maccabi Pithon Lezion v Hapoel Holon

EUROSPORT
9:30 Alpine skiing 10:00 Ski jumping 11:30 Motor racing 12:00 Live Australian Open tennis 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Speed world 22:00 Australian Open tennis highlights 00:00 Eurosport 1:30 Golf 2:30 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 Live Australian Open tennis 10:00 Sailing 10:30 Live Australian Open tennis 15:00 International motor magazine 17:00 Australian Open tennis highlights 18:00 Cricket from India 19:00 Australian Open tennis highlights 23:30 International motor magazine 00:30 Water sports magazine 1:30 Sailing

TUESDAY JANUARY 17

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 NFL playoff 18:30 Premier League soccer 19:30 All sports - quiz 20:00

Bushido 20:30 College basketball: Connecticut v Pittsburgh 22:00 Soccer 23:30 World volleyball highlights

EUROSPORT
9:30 Motor racing 10:00 Latin American soccer 10:30 Eurosport 12:00 Live Australian Open tennis 19:30 Eurosport 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Athletics magazine 22:00 European skiing 23:00 Australian Open tennis highlights 00:00 Snooker 2:00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 Live Australian Open tennis 10:00 Sailing 10:30 Live Australian Open tennis 15:00 Australian Open highlights 17:00 Cricket 1:30 Sailing

WED JANUARY 18

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 College basketball 18:30 (to be announced) 18:30 Volleyball 19:30 Channel 5's greatest hits 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Basketball 22:00 Soccer 23:30 Channel 5's greatest hits 00:00 College basketball: Connecticut v Pittsburgh

EUROSPORT
9:30 Athletics magazine 10:30 European skiing magazine 11:30 Leisure sports 12:00 Live Australian Open tennis 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Boxing magazine 22:00 Australian Open highlights 00:00 Motor magazine 1:00 Horse racing 2:00 Eurosport news

THURSDAY JANUARY 19

CHANNEL 5
7:00 Bodies in motion 7:30 Bodies in motion 8:00 Bodies in motion 16:00 Bodies in motion 18:30 Basketball 18:00 All sports - quiz 18:30 Handball highlights 19:30 Daily roundup: basketball 20:00 Bushido 20:30 Spanish league soccer 23:30 Daily roundup: basketball 00:00 Soccer

EUROSPORT
9:30 Horse racing 10:30 European skiing 11:30 Snowboard 12:00 Live Australian Open tennis 20:30 Eurosport news 21:00 Martial arts 22:00 Wrestling superstars 23:00 Australian Open highlights 00:00 Boxing 1:00 Motor magazine

PRIME SPORTS
6:00 Live Australian Open tennis 10:00 International sailing highlights 10:30 Live Australian Open tennis 15:00 Show jumping 16:00 Australian Open highlights 17:00 Cricket 19:00 Australian Open highlights 23:30 Cricket

TA car bomb wounds crime figure

RAINE MARCUS

MOSHE "Mussa" Alperon, of the famous Tel Aviv underworld family, was seriously wounded yesterday when a bomb planted underneath his car exploded.

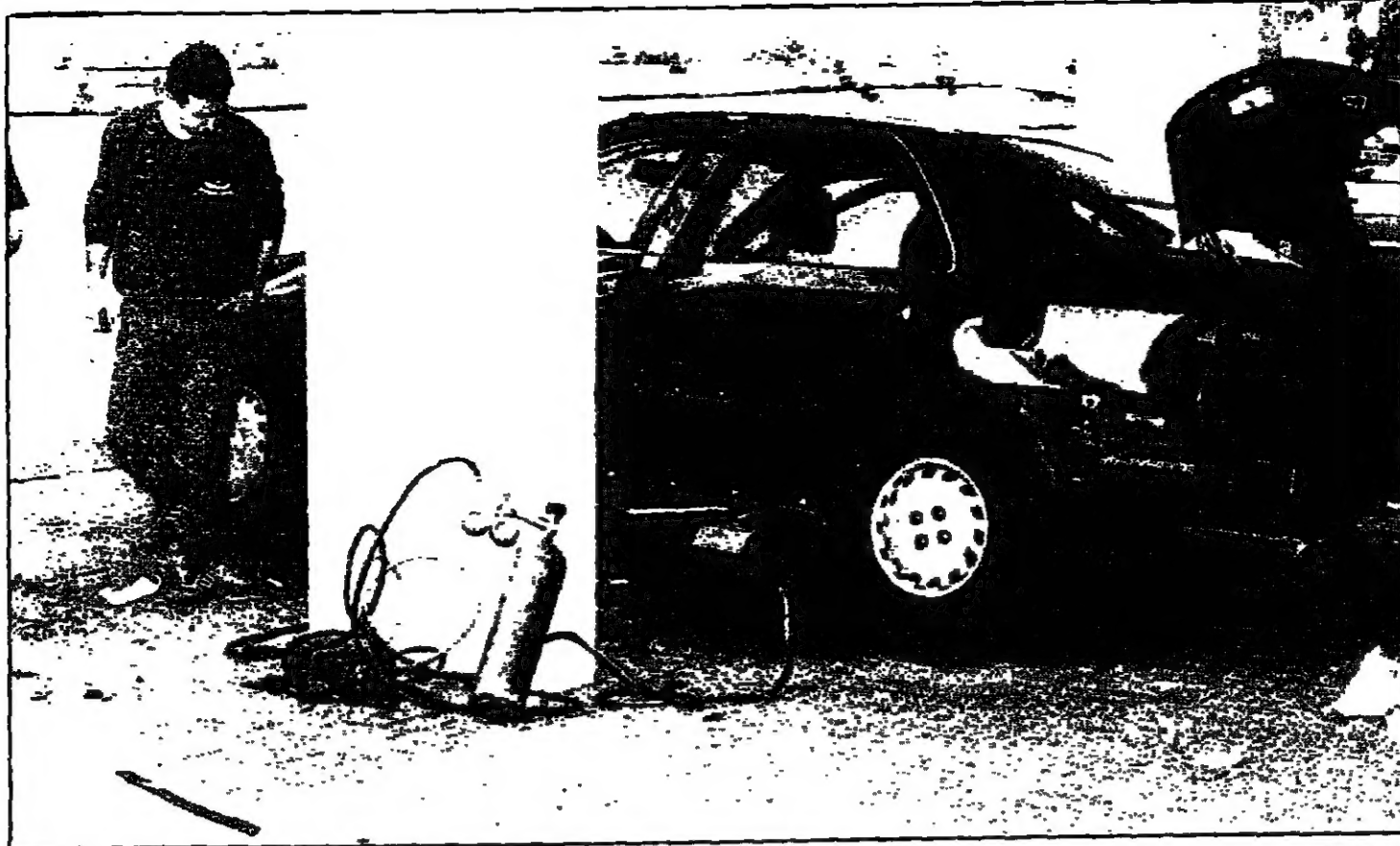
The 42-year-old Alperon was taken to Ichilov Hospital, where doctors amputated one leg and were still fighting to save his other leg last night.

His girlfriend, Karen Mazar, was lightly wounded in the blast.

Alperon and Mazar left Mazar's Ramat Gan home yesterday afternoon and got into his car, parked behind the building. As he reversed the car to leave the parking lot the bomb exploded.

Neighbors described the blast as "enormous," reminding them of the Scud missiles that hit the same area during the Gulf War.

Large forces of police arrived on the scene and a Magen David Adom ambulance took Alperon



Police inspect the car of Moshe 'Mussa' Alperon, in which a bomb exploded yesterday.

(Israel Sun)

to the hospital. Sappers scoured the area for other bombs, and Mazar's vehicle, parked nearby, was also examined.

Police say the bomb was composed of IDF-issue explosives and was made by professionals. It was probably planted yesterday morning.

Alperon has a long history of criminal offenses, ranging from counterfeiting dollars to extortion and blackmail, though he has

only served time for the first charge.

His brother, Ya'acov, is presently in jail for assault and extortion. Their sister Shoshana became an observant after serving a sentence for drug offenses. Alperon's ex-wife has also become observant.

Police sources said that "the family is not lacking enemies" and have launched a massive investigation to discover who tried

to murder Alperon yesterday.

Detectives said he was involved in illegal gambling operations and are examining the possibility that the person who planted the bomb was a competitor. But his lawyer, Moshe Aloni, said that recently Alperon had "quieted down and is managing the family businesses."

Another Alperon brother, Zalman, said that yesterday's incident was unlikely to ignite gang

warfare.

"We don't operate like that any more," he said. "The stigma attached to our family name is hard to dispel. We finished with crime a long time ago." But police said they were preparing for the possibility of retribution.

Alperon, meanwhile, was under heavy guard at the hospital last night, and police also ordered security posted at the homes of other family members.

Plenum vote on economic arrangements bill tomorrow

THE economic arrangements bill will be brought to the plenum for a vote tomorrow, after it was easily passed again by the Knesset Finance Committee last week.

The committee amended the bill so that all its provisions will apply retroactively to January 1.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat met on Friday with rebel Labor faction leader Eli Dayan, a final attempt to persuade him to withdraw his amendment for a

EVELYN GORDON

long school day. The meeting was meant to give Dayan a means of withdrawing without too great a loss of face. Israel Radio reported no progress was made in the meeting.

If Dayan refuses to recant, he will be forced to go even further out on a limb in his rebellion, since the party has decided to impose party discipline in the vote on the law.

Meanwhile, deputy faction

chairman Ra'anan Cohen, who has been replacing Dayan for the past two weeks, announced a full mobilization of the coalition to pass the bill. No coalition members will be allowed to pair off with opposition members to be absent from the vote, he said.

The government considers it crucial to pass the bill without Dayan's amendment, both to prevent additional expenditures and to avoid further damage to its already battered image.

A-G: Suspect in murder of woman soldier cannot be tried in military court

EVELYN GORDON

SOLDIER Liat Gabai's suspected murderer cannot be tried in a military court since he committed the murder with an ax rather than a gun, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair ruled recently.

Ben-Yair also said it would be improper to change the law so that Wahib Abu Roub of Kalkilya could be tried in a military court.

In response, Likud MK Tzahi Hanegbi said he would propose a bill in the Knesset to allow prosecution of those suspected of murdering Jews with such weapons in military court. "Israeli law must not protect those who decide to murder Jews in this manner," Hanegbi said.

The opinion was issued in response to a request by Police Minister Moshe Shohat, but Shohat declined to explain why he was interested in the matter, something which also puzzled Ben-Yair.

"It's not clear what practical purpose would be served by trying the accused in a military court — whose only 'advantage' is the

authority to impose the death sentence — in light of the policy, adhered to by all Israeli governments, of refraining from implementing the death penalty against terrorists," Ben-Yair wrote in his opinion.

In the opinion, Ben-Yair explained that according to the 1945 Emergency Defense Regulations, anyone committing a crime involving firearms or explosives can be tried in a military court. However, this is not true of murderers committed with "cold" weapons such as knives, axes or stones.

Though it would be possible to amend the regulations, it would not be legal to then apply the new rules to the case of Gabai's murderer, because, the military courts, unlike civilian courts, can impose the death sentence. The change would therefore expose the murderer to greater danger — and the Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that changes which worsen a criminal's situation cannot be applied retroactively, Ben-Yair explained.

Ben-Yair declares war on porno services ads, links them as 'trigger' to sex crimes

EVELYN GORDON

THE Justice Ministry has declared war on ads for pornographic services because they are becoming a menace to society, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair said last week.

Speaking at a meeting with journalists in Jerusalem, Ben-Yair said that for a long time, the justice system ignored pornographic ads on the theory that the police had more important things to do with their time. Now, however, it has gone too far.

"There's a connection between these ads and snuff films [which have become more widespread here recently]," he said. "There's a connection between the one aberration and the other."

"If you think this is just a battle by religious circles against pornographic ads... it isn't just that!" he added.

Ben-Yair cited the case of two

boys — one of whom, now aged 20, he has just decided to indict — who raped and sodomized a 10-year-old girl while themselves aged 10 and 13, and did the same again to the same girl three years later.

"I believe... that these minors came to do this because of watching pornographic films," he said.

While it is true that such acts stem from a certain "constitutional make-up," he continued, they also require a "trigger," and because pornography can serve as such a trigger, it must be kept away from such people.

Ben-Yair said that in addition to working through legal channels, the ministry is trying to persuade the press to censor pornographic ads itself.

So far, he said, the main culprits in printing such ads have been Yediot Aharonot and Ma'ariv.

Guards beaten in Hadera mall robbery

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE yesterday arrested two suspects in connection with a robbery at a jewelry store at Hadera's shopping mall, in which two security guards were badly beaten.

The guards, brothers Hananya and Michael Vitali from Or Akiva, told police that four masked men broke into the shop-

ping mall around 5:30 a.m. and attacked them.

One of the brothers suffered serious head injuries and was taken to Beilinson Hospital, and the other had his hand broken in the struggle. The masked robbers, who reportedly spoke Russian, tied up the guards and then smashed the windows of the jewelry shop and stole goods worth an estimated NIS 250,000.

Offer quits opera, TA arts council

URI Ofer, general manager of the New Israeli Opera (NIO) and the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (TAPAC), resigned from both positions on Thursday.

A source at the Tel Aviv Municipality said that following an interim report by Judge Arye Segalson "Offer feels the noose tightening around his neck." The Municipality commissioned an investigation in August following accusations against Ofer of financial and management irregularities during the construction of TAPAC.

Helen Koye

Levy denies he'll announce new party in Morocco

SARAH HONIG

ace," he said.

But he also sent out a veiled warning: "If the Likud betrays me and if I see that my people are disenfranchised in the party, then obviously I will weigh my options," he said. He also would not rule out starting a new party.

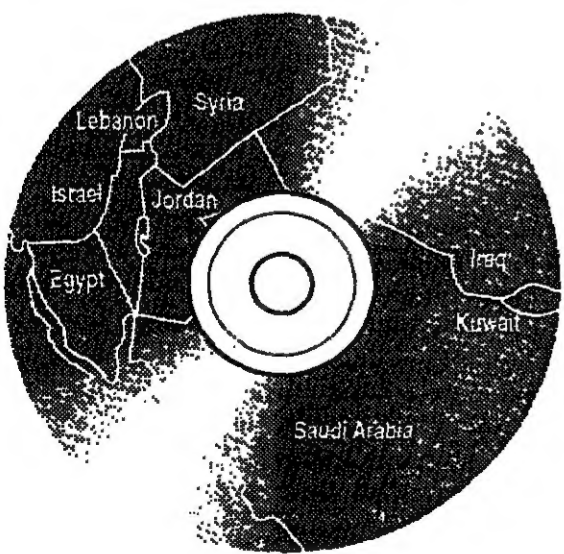
His chief demand of the Likud now is that it adopt a primary system that would leave a great deal of power in the hands of the local branches, a system he is sure would lead to a greater representation for his supporters on the

next Knesset list than a nationwide election.

On Thursday, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu sought to appease Levy by promising that the local branches would receive proper representation in whatever primary system is decided upon.

Speculation about a new "North African" ticket was fanned by the rebellion of Labor MKs Eli Dayan and Rafi Eidi over the long school day and the fact that they consulted with Levy and Shas's Aryeh Deri during that battle.

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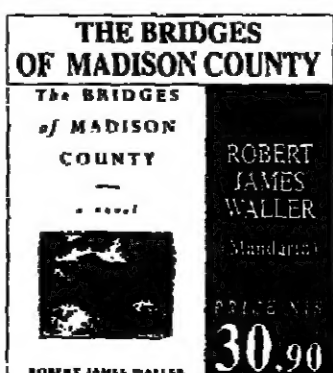
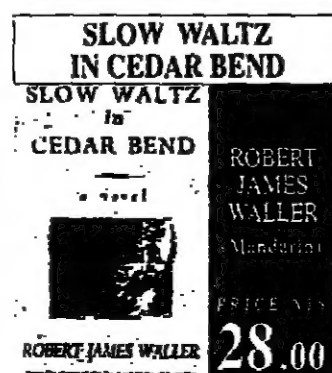
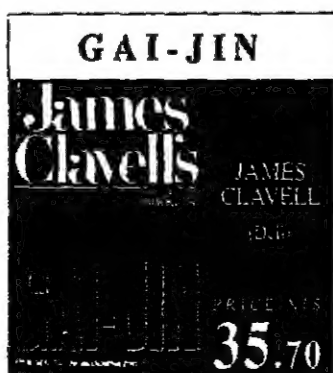
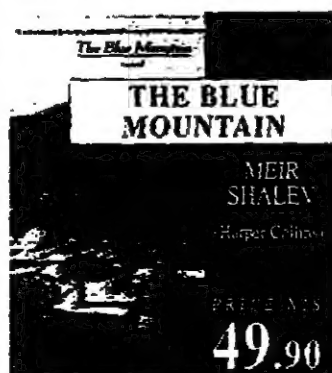
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